

Bath vs Wigan: the clash of two cultures

A match across the North-South divide

How to spot the car that's clocked

INSIDE TODAY'S SECTION TWO

On the road

Meet pop music's Tony Hancock

Why Robert Smith is glad to be glum



EU poll backs Major view as seats tumble

Voters split on single currency

DONALD MACINTYRE

John Major's strategy of leav-ing open the issue of a single currency has been vindicated by confidential new poll findings which show that voters are in two minds about European monetary union.

The research shows that while 71 per cent would vote against joining monetary union in a referendum now, 69 per cent would consider the possibility of joining later if the is-

sue were left open.
The poll will bring some comfort to the Tory high com-mand in the wake of last night's heavy losses in the local elections. It shows a large majority of voters want to retain the possibility of joining a single cur-

rency some time in the future. The unpublished poll for the European Commission shows that 71 per cent would vote against joining monetary union in a referendum - a markedly higher figure than the 58 per cent recorded in a MORI poll for the Sun newspaper earlier

The findings, which are now up the pressure on Mr Major circulating in Whitehall, help to over the past few weeks, culexplain the confidence with which the Prime Minister said on Monday that a referendum would vote against a single currency if it were held today.

But pro-Europeans will take considerably more comfort from the surprise finding that more than two-thirds answer "yes" to the question of whether a "decision should be left open with the possibility of joining

The finding that 69 per cent - compared with 56 per cent last June - of electors want the op- divisions over Europe.

tion kept open will be seen as suggesting that a referendum on a government proposal to join a single currency could still be winnable - particularly if the decision was taken to join as part of a "second wave" once Enropean monetary union has

been in operation for a period. A number of ministers, including Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, have been arguing in private that Britain is much likelier to join a single currency in the second wave and it would be more desirable for it to do so, if it joins

The poll also shows that British electors are remarkably unsentimental about the issue of whether the Queen's head should on one side of the planned curo notes and coins if the UK joins a single currency. While 13 per cent say it would make them more favourably inclined towards a single currency and 5 per cent less so, 82 per cent say it would make no

difference. The unexpectedly deep vein of hostility will encourage Eurosceptics who have been stepping over the past few weeks, culminating in a strong hint that members of the right-wing 92 Group will include personal commitments not to support a single currency in their election

But it also shows that Mr Major's determination not to yield to pressure and rule out a single currency has equally enthusiastic support from voters. which comes as a fillip after a miserable local election campaign which has been over-shadowed by the party's

gle currency may more open than many Euro-sceptics would hope. It also comes amid signs that senior pro-Europeans in the party are to adopt a more robust line in pressing their arguments against the Europhobe wing in the party. That was signalled last weekend when Douglas Hurd, the former

Foreign Secretary, urged pro-Europeans not to hold back in arguing their corner. Meanwhile, in a move which may initiate Euro-sceptics, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor has appointed as a special adviser Anthony Teasdale, former special adviser to Lord Howe when he was Foreign Secretary. Mr Teasdale, who was more re-cently head of the Tory MEPs' London office, and then the MEPs' senior politicial adviser

in Europe, is a strong pro-European. A new poll for the European newspaper shows that opposition to a single European currency is rising in Germany, as well as in Britain, despite Chancellor Helmut-Kohis eager-

ness for the project. Some 52 per cent divoters in Germany are now against the idea, up from 50 per cent two years ago, even though Bonn is one of the scheme's teenest

supporters. Support for the scheme has fallen from 45 per cent to 40 per cent, and the lead for the "No" vote in Germany is now 12 points, up seven points since 1994, according to the MORI poll. Britons are still showing the greatest resistance to the idea,

Now you are a councillor,

Hoddle aims to play from the heart

It aged Bobby Robson and subjected Graham Taylor to many a cruel lampoon - so it was per-haps understandable that Glenn Hoddle looked pensive and grimly determined as he was presented yesterday as the next coach of the England football

At 38, Hoddle is the youngest man to be given the task of es-tablishing England as one of the world's leading teams once

"My ambition is to be successful, playing in a manner which is close to my heart and I believe to the public's heart as well," said Hoddle, who as an eight-year-old made a banner to parade around the streets of his home town of Harlow, Essex,

proclaiming England's World Cup victory in 1966. It is the qualifying campaign for the 1998 World Cup finals in France that will be his immediate concern wheh he inherits the job from Terry Venables after this summer's European Championship in

England.
"We believe that Glenn has a similar football philosophy to Terry and that's a big plus. Graham Kelly, the Football Association's chief executive, said when announcing the appointment at a news conference in a west London hotel.

Hoddle, who made his name playing for Tottenham Hotspur in the late Seventies and early Eighties, was widely regarded as the most gifted footballer of his generation. Although he played 53 times for England that was nothing like as many international appearances as his many admirers, at home and abroad, thought he should have made.

At the time it was often suggested that the England team should have been built around his ability to direct play with his easy, graceful style and perceptive passing. As Hoddle said yesterday: "If Terry had been manager when I was playing, I think I would have won a lot more caps - he would have

brought out the best in me." After five years in football club management, having had some success in cup competitions with Chelsea, he now has the opportunity to bring out the best in England's current crop of players.

News Analysis, page 15 Sport, page 28

page 17 | Setting out his goals: Glenn Hoddle describes his plans for England yesterday

Wimpy puts British beef on menu



and COLIN BROWN

Farmers received some rare good news yesterday when the Wimpy fast-food chain said it would put British beef back on the menu. It was removed after the start of the BSE ("madcow") crisis five weeks ago. But the Government culling

scheme, designed to restore faith in British beef, failed to get under way yesterday, with farm-ers and slaughterhouse operators accusing ministers of presiding over a farce. Destruction of 21,000 cattle a week as part of efforts to cradicate BSE from British herds had been due to start yesterday

after being postponed from Monday. Confusion over the scheme to remove animals aged over 30 months from the food chain led to allegations in the Commons yesterday that the

Government was inept.
Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said the measures, introduced by Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, had led to confusion and appeared "pretty inept".

John Major said detailed information would be sent today to farmers, but Labour leaders said the confusion increased the impression of the Government having lost its grip in the crisis. In an attempt to reassert his anthority, Mr Major yesterday by calling in ambassadors of European Union countries to protest if the EU refuses to lift

the export ban on British beef. Welcoming the move by Wimpy, Mr Major told MPs he would consider the call by Sir Cranley Ouslow - one of the Tory MPs who sent a joint protest to the ambassadors on Wednesday - for the diplomats to be called in to hear British protests if the ban were not lift-

ed next week. Ministers said last night there would be intolerable pressure on the Government if the meeting of agriculture ministers on Tuesday failed to lift the ban

signalled that the Government was considering a show of anger expectations of action, and calling in the ambassadors would have widespread support.

Cabinet ministers reviewed possible action at a short meeting but Cabinet sources said there would be no "marching up the hill" again with renewed threats of counter-measures after the débàcle last week. Ministers appear to feel frus-

trated at their impotence, and the British action in the European Court is not seen as a quick remedy.

Paul Gentry, who runs Britain's second-largest prime beef cattle market at Newark, Nottinghamshire, said the culling scheme was "an ab-

solute farce. We have no idea what is going on. I have no starting date for the scheme. I am bending over backwards to try and understand the logistics of

this scheme.
"We have no idea of how we are going to be paid. We have no idea of how we are going to be able to pay the producer. It

is just a monumental cock-up." Peter Bowyer, a slaughterhouse operator from Hather-leigh, near Okehampton, Devon, "This has been mismanaged. Nobody seems to know

what is going on ... We are ready ... to slaughter 400-500 cattle a day but cannot do anything until we know there is somewhere for the carcasses to go.

Howard furious at Bulger ruling

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

The Home Office may be forced to review the detention of up to 230 young killers after the High Court vesterday outlawed the 15-year minimum sentences imposed by Michael Howard on the schoolboys who killed toddler James Bulger.

The Home Secretary reacted furiously to his latest rebuff by the judiciary, threatening legislation 'to protect the supreme power of Parliament to shape the law", and amouncing an appeal against what he described as a

quite remarkable" judgment. Jamie Bulger's distraught mother, Denise, said she would devote her life to ensuring the two boys stayed in detention. "I don't think his decision was unlawful - in fact I don't think they should get out at all," she said. They did an adult crime and they should be treated like adults. If they don't have to serve the 15 years, as far as I am concerned they are getting off with it. It will just have been like a little holiday for them." But children's and civil rights

groups hailed the judgment which outlawed the fixing of a "tariff" or minimum sentence for child offenders - as a return to the concept of "juvenile justice". Britain stands almost alone in treating child offenders as young as 10 as if they were

In fact, the ruling will not



necessarily mean that the two boys, Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, are released any earlier. It means only that their

detention must be regularly re-

viewed. Read alongside a deci-

"court-like" body - not the Home Secretary. The ruling is seen as a further crosion of the Home Secretary's

powers to fix sentences, and puts Mr Howard once again on collision course with the judiciary over crime and punishment. The two boys were just 10 years old when they abducted

two-year-old Jamie from a shopping precinct in 1993 and killed him on an isolated railway line in Walton, Liverpool. They were sentenced "to be detained at her Majesty's Pleasure" - the indeterminate and

compulsory sentence for juve-

nile killers. The trial judge, Mr

sion by European human rights Justice Morland, recommendjudges earlier this year, that re- ed that they should serve a minview must be by an independent imum eight-year "tariff" - the proportion of their sentence which reflects punishment and deterrence, before they can be considered for parole. Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice recommended a 10-year tariff. but the Home Secretary, who

> that it should be 15 years. But Lord Justice Pill, sitting with Mr Justice Newman, said yesterday that the Home Secretary had adopted "an unlawful practice" by treating the boys in the same way as adult mur-derers serving life sentences.

makes the final decision, ruled

He said Mr Howard had every right to take an initial view TURN TO PAGE 2

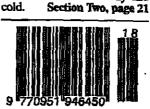
IN BRIEF

BSkyB claims £19m Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation is to press ahead with a claim for £19m in damages from suppliers of "smart cards" to BSkyB.

Paving the way Severn Trent Water has come up with a way for gardeners to conserve water this summer - pave

Today's weather Scotland, Wales and western England will be dry and sunny. Other areas will be rainy and

over their lawns.



Photograph: Robert Hallam DISTINCTION GGF

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Questionable performance by the Diva from Hell

This is a story of a row. Not a row as in fight or struggle - but a row of seats. To be precise the third row up, below the gangway on the government side of the Chamber. And it's a story of the men who sit there.

At 2.30 yesterday there were only a couple of bottoms parked on this row - the leanest of which belonged to the MP for Gravesham, Jacques Arnold. But why was he there at all? This was Northern Ireland questions and most sensible folk flee before the various factions and their mainland sympathisers get stuck in. My own theory is that he has an arrange-



ment with David Mellor, whereby one remains in the House whenever the other is absent. As a consequence, Mr Arnold is never able to get away. Which is a shame for a man who lists his only recreation as "Family". A former junior minister,

Mr Amold is too modest. He has at least two other hobbies asking questions and shouting. Both of which allow him to employ his most notable attribute his remarkable voice. This sounds like an adenoidal buzzsaw with gears. In first it emits a whine which can scare slugs off lettuces at 200 yards. In higher gears his voice becomes inescanable and unbearable - like a showstopping aria by the Diva from Hell.

At 3.07pm, Mr Arnold was called to ask a question. On the order paper it was supposed to be about the flying over Irish police stations, North and South,

of Union flags and tricolours. But, putting the saw into second. Mr Arnold contrived this: "Has the minister received any request to fly the European flag over RUC stations?" This was greeted by one of those guffaws the House, and he sat down with

satisfied smile. By now, with Prime Minister's questions fast approaching, bench three was filling up. Two along was old Etonian Sir Archie Hamilton, former PPS to Mrs Thatcher in the Glory Days, and now consigned to the backbenches - his long and thickening form slumped lan-

guidly on the upholstery, alternately yawning and heckling Opposition women MPs.
On his right sat Richard
Tracey, JP, MP (Surbiton). Co-

author of "Hickstead: the first twelve years", Mr Tracey's mo-ment came in the mid-eighties when he was Minister of Sport. And then it went again. He has a large face, but rather tiny features which perch almost arbitrarily somewhere near the middle. It reminds one of a map of Saskatchewan or Alberta, where huge expanses of Canadian prairie are punctuated by small conurbations, placed

there for no obvious reason.

Like Jacques Arnold, Mr Tracey is a regular attender; unlike him, he says little.

Three fifteen and Jacques was first on the order paper to ask the PM a question. As old hands in the press gallery reached for the ear-pings, the buzz-saw invited Mr Major to agree that Labour local gov-ernment was expensive and bad value. Archie and Richard nodded. Mr Arnold sat down. Mr Major, prepared for this friend-ly question, rattled off a statisnic or two. And there they remained through the rest of a surprisingly low-key session. Richard kept bobbing up and

trying to catch the Speaker's eye almost as though he had fallen asleep, but had forgotten to tell his legs. Archie and Jacques heckled the rather pathetic at-tempt by Labour's Bridget Prentice (Lewisham E) to flog the dead horse of a Heseltine leadership challenge, but their hearts weren't in it.

Four o'clock and all three were still there, whence by now nearly, all but they had fied. Three ex-ministers, seventeen years into the Conservative era, desultorily interrupting the shadow leader of the House, Ann Taylor from bench three. Waiting.

IN BRIEF GP's daughter killed with boyfriend

Spot the

News

inflated

A doctor's daughter and her boyfriend were found brutally murdered in a country bunga-low yesterday. Fiona Ovis, 28, and William Crompton, 18, had been killed in a knife attack.
Fiona and William were found at the £80,000 home

at _andrindod Wells in Mid Wales, which was owned by her la'e grandparents. The dead woman's recently retired father, Dr Simeon Ovis, had been trying to sell the bungalow, but it is believed his daughter had a key. A 26-year-old man was last night being questioned by Dyfed-Powys police.

Lifting the lid

Researchers began lifting the lid on Britain's rubbish bins yesterday as part of a project to find out how much waste packaging is thrown out. Trash from more than 2,000 homes will be analysed and the results used to help formulate recovery and recycling programmes. The Government is urging packag-ing manufacturers to increase the recovery of the waste.

Library thief jailed

A landscape gardener who toured the country stealing rare prints from library books has been jailed for four years at Southwark Crown Court in London Joseph Bellwood, 43, of Swillington, Leeds, admitted stealing plates worth £120,000 and selling them for £17,000.

Star turns

ITV is to use stars from some of its most successful programmes to promote less pop-ular shows. Bill Tarmey and Liz Dawn, who play Jack and Vera Duckworth in Coronation Street will help advertise Melvyn Bragg's arts programme, The South Bank Show.

Life sentence

A jealous man who murdered his ex-wife when he discovered she was having an affair with his long lost son was jailed for life at Winchester Crown Court. Charles Hanson, 48, of East Dulwich, London, stabbed Julie Dalton with a 10-inch knife in front of Neil Mason, 23, his son from a previous marriage. He had denied murder.

Editors warned

Newspaper editors and photographers were given a warning last night after the recent publication of pictures showing Prince William at Eton. Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, said: "Just recently there have been one or two instances where reporting - in terms of the publication of photographs taken of William during his time at school - has begun to stray into grey areas around the dividing line between the freedom of the press and its duty to respect the privacy of a child."

Soldier ambushed

Six men were being questioned by police last night after an army despatch rider was ambushed as he travelled on a minor road near Heddon-on-the-Wall, Northumberland. The soldier, from 8 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps, was left stranded when the raiders made off with his 350cc Harley Davidson and unloaded automatic rifle.

£350,000 rail sale

A toy train set broke all records last night when it sold for almost £350,000 in an auction at Christie's in London. Collectors from around the world bid for more than 500 items, including locomotives, freight wagons and stations, sold by the set's anonymous Swiss owner.

Family reunion

Hit Seventies family band, The Jackson Five, are set to re-form to record and tour, it was claimed yesterday. Elder broth-er Tito Jackson said the plans included the American group's most famous member, Michael

DJ smuggled drugs

A disc jockey was jailed for two years yesterday for smuggling £18,000 worth of drugs into Britain, Stephen Smith, 30, of the London-based radio station Kiss FM, had denied smuggling 5.16kg of herbal cannabis

Advisers got £34m for pits sell-off

CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

The controversial sale of British Coal's pits to RJB Mining, the company controlled by entrepreneur Richard Budge, in 1994, cost the taxpayer £34m in advisers' fees, according to an official report published today.

Of that total, says the National Audit Office study, the bulk went to just three City firms. Rothschilds, the merchant bank, was paid £9.1m; Clifford Chance, the law firm, picked up £12.7m and Touche Ross, the accountants, received £4.3m. Dewe Rogerson, the City public relations agency, was paid £320,000.

The sale provoked an outcry for two main reasons. At the same time as the deal was being struck, Mr Budge was being investigated by another branch of government to see if he should be disqualified as a director over his involvement in

another business venture. Lord Wakeham, the minister responsible for appointing should make every effort to set Rothschilds, also caused a furore when he joined the bank after leaving the Government.

On the row over Mr Budge, the NAO found that Departficials talking to him about end, they decided not to apply for his disqualification but, says the NAO, "any such application could have had a significant imnact on RJB Mining's bid".

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watchdog, the DTI has tightened its procedures, issuing guidelines to officials on obtaining information about bidders in privatisations and the sources they can use. These guidelines should be applied in future sell-offs, the NAO says.

On Rothschilds, the NAO revealed the bank initially demanded a £4m "success fee" for handling the sale as well as charging an hourly rate. This demand, pointed out the watchdog, was only made after the bank had been chosen to handle the sale. The fee was subsequently negotiated down to

In future, says the report, departments should think about the overall size of the package before agreeing to pay a success fee. The factors to be taken into account in determining fees should be agreed in advance of

the adviser's appointment.
Officials are also criticised for failing to set budgets for the advisers total costs. In future, they overall budgets at the earliest opportunity where reasonably reliable estimates can be made".

One of the hidden benefits to the Government from the ment of Trade and Industry of £963m sale, the report discloses, is that it agreed to act as a selling the pits had no idea he guarantor of the benefits to forwas also being looked at by the mer miners from the British DTT's Insolvency Service. In the Coal pension fund - in return for a half share of any surplus from the fund. The NAO estimates this half share, on current forecasts, could yield £2bn for the Government.

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Kind thought: Dunblane children choose some of the 5,000 Teddy bears sent to the city after the school shooting

comes to children's rights and

justice. Mr Howard would face

some cross-party opposition in

the Commons - and outright

hostility in the Lords, which is

in favour of abolishing the

mandatory life sentence for

murder all together.
As it is, the UK is out of step

with Europein the way that it

deals with child offenders. Most

countries have set the age of

criminality as low as 10. While

vesterday's ruling was seen by

lawyers and children's groups as

a step towards a return to the

they argue that the govern-

Justice in its recent report on

child killers, suggests raising the

age of criminality to 14, claims

that a public trial is inappro-

priate for those under 14, and recommends that an indepen-

dent court-like body responsi-

against media pressure and

ment should go further.

Bulger ruling follows judges' trend A series of recent rulings have helped keep politicians ecutive involvement when i

out of determining sentences, writes Heather Mills

Yesterday's court defeat for Michael Howard is the latest advance by the judges in keeping politicians out of determining individual sentences.

A series of rulings by European and English judges eroding the role of the executive, means that the Home Secretary now retains only the right to de-cide if and when murderers serving mandatory life sentences should be freed.

Yesterday's High Court de-cision, coupled with a ruling by human rights judges in Strasbourg earlier this year, effectively removes any role for the Home Secretary in fixing penalties for the 230 children and young people detained indefi-

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nitely "during her majesty's pleasure" for serious offences. In February, a unanimous decision by the European Court of Human Rights swept away the powers of the Home Sec-retary to decide whether or not to release young murderers

once a "tariff", or minimum term, set by the Home Secretary had expired. They said their release should be decided by a "court-like body" which regu-larly reviewed their detention. The two English judges' decision yesterday to declare "tariffs" illegal - saying that children should not be treated

as adults - will leave the entire process in the hands of the independent tribunal, like the Parole Board. In 1990 another European

Court ruling abolished Mr Howard's powers to decide on the release dates for those serv-



cross-party opposition

ing discretionary life sentences - those life terms imposed for offences other than murder. Justice and human rights organisations say it is now only a matter of time before the Home Secretary's final say in manda-

tory me sentences for murder-ers will also be swept aside. There is a growing body of high influential opinion - ining that of the cross-party e Affairs select committee in the first it is wrong in principle for a politician to play a role in what should be a matter for the ages. Last December, the Conservative-dominated Comittee said Michael Howard mattee said Michael Howard respond to "public will" in high profile cases, but "public opinion is not the surest guide in

making such a decision". These words should ring alarm bells with Mr Howard be-

fore he proceeds with his threat vesterday to change the law relating to child killers, if he fails - as is likely - in his appeals against yesterday's decision. MPs will be even more em-

ble for deciding their release dates should review their dephatic in their opposition to extention every year.

Anger grows over Bulger murder sentences

on the length of detention needed to satisfy retribution and deterrence, but he had to ensure that was kept under constant review as their personalities matured and developed.

"What I cannot accept is that in the case of an offender aged 10 or 11, he can fix a tar-iff of 15 years as if the offend-

The judge said he recognised the Home Secretary's responsibility - along with that of the judges - to maintain public confidence in the system of criminal justice. "Public revulsion at this offence is entirely understandable and reassuring. The public can be expect-ed to express overwhelmingly

their support for Mr and Mrs Bulger in the tragic loss they have suffered and to support measures to prevent such a

Howard had to give "regular and reasoned consideration to what is achieved for the pullic good - even if he felt he was "sailing upon a stormy sea"

crime happening again."

However, he said the Mr

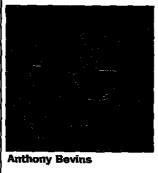
public outrage.

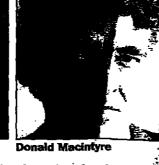
Mr Howard said the decision

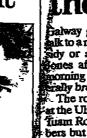
flew in the face of judicial prac-tice and precedent. "The power I exercised was given to me by Parliament. It has been exercised 400 times without challenge since 1983."

Leading article, page 16

Anthony Bevins to rejoin 'Independent'







Robbers who broke the bank - literally

calway gardai are anxious to talk to a modern-day Butch Cassidy or a budding Smith and Jones after an ill-fated early coming heist yesterday that lit-rally broke the bank. The robbers' arrived at 4am

pay, the thieves had to admit de-feat. Abandoning their stolen Volvo CAT dumper at the scene they made off in a waiting car.

loader used by the gang had done "serious structural dam-

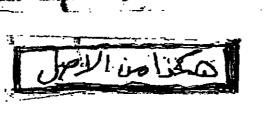
other attempts to make off with cash dispensers in both and and mainland Britain.

acceptance and surgery. "It was like coming home," she said. "When I realised that tors breached the 1976 Euro-

Court of Justice found that are behaviour of the school direc-

that the Government would have to amend legislation.

such as mantage,



NOKIA age" to the bank, which might through Dover, Kent, in Octo-Monthly Restal £15 (£12.77+VAT) MODEL 232. have to be demolished and reber 1994 but was convicted at built. Meanwhile NCR, manu-Peak Exter Calls

58p per min (42.5p+VAT) Canterbury Crown Court facturers of the Fort-Knox standard cash dispenser were on reak cass | 28p per min (17p + VAT) mins talk-time • Up to 16 ins standby-time at the Ulster Bank on Galway's Peak times 8.00-19.00 Mon to Fri. ◆ Complete with battery and fast travel yesterday giving themselves a pat on the back. THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD Tuam Road without PIN num-Mandatory itemised billing charged at £1.77 nc VAT per month. Line renta charges ♦ Lightweight 210g bers but equipped with a me-The popularity of JCB-type chanical loader, and seeking a GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND large and urgent withdrawal above the IR£200 (£210) limit diggers in the armed robbery Canadas ... Pis300 Madeira ... Esc325 business has grown following permitted by its cash dispensing the widespread deployment of security guards in Irish bank CyprusC£1.20 Melta 43 cent Denmark.....Dite:18 Norway.....Nec20 Cellphones Anthony Bevins, the awarddent at launch and then polit-Their plan was to extract the branches. This was a response ical editor and columnist for cash dispenser in its entirety from the front wall. But presswinning political journalist, is to an epidemic of attacks on nce Fr14 Spain Pts300 to leave the Observer to rejoin the Independent on Sunday. He Germany ... DM4.5 Sweden. ... Sk21 banks and post offices in the will be writing a twice-weekly the Independent as political ing all the wrong buttons, the early Eighties, fuelled by both increasing availability of guns to Oreco Dr450 Switzerland . Str4.00 column in his new role. hapless thieves succeeded in virmembraurg\$3.00 Andrew Marr, the editor Mr Bevins ran the Indepentually demolishing the bank building. The objects of their decriminals and paramilitary designate, will also continue dent's original political team ORDER NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS groups' need for ready cash. OVERSEAS SURSCRIPTIONS when the paper was launched in 1986. Before that he was to write regularly in the news Several years ago Dublin sire meanwhile, the cash mamal, 13 weeks Europe £110,76; Zone 1, Mad paper. Last night, Mr Marr said: "The return of Tony Bevins and the elevation of chine and the adjacent night criminals achieved a spectacudie East, America, Alaca and India) £184.08; Zone lar success when they attacked a security van carrying a large chief political correspondent of safe, refused to budge. 2 (For East and Australian) £206,70, To order, played Doubtless distraught that Donald Macintyre, our precash consignment on the Navan Don Macintyre give us the isa Serviçes Ltd in 43 Millinathous, London E.1.4 977 crime was clearly not about to finest political team, bar none, as we prepare for the most imsent political editor, has been Road on the city's north-side. r telephone 01.71-538 8288. Credit cards w appointed chief political com-Since then there have been BACK ISSUES mentator. Mr Macintyre was portant general election camlabour editor of the Indepen-

Spot the difference: Doctors given a twin-track solution

They came two by two. And they just kept coming. So many were there that passers-by on nearby Westminster Bridge might have been suspected the sudden onset of double vision.

In fact, although no eye tests were necessary, the presence of 500 sets of female twins enjoying a party in their honour at St Thomas's Hospital yesterday might ultimately help the visually impaired, as well as those suffering from a range of other medical conditions.

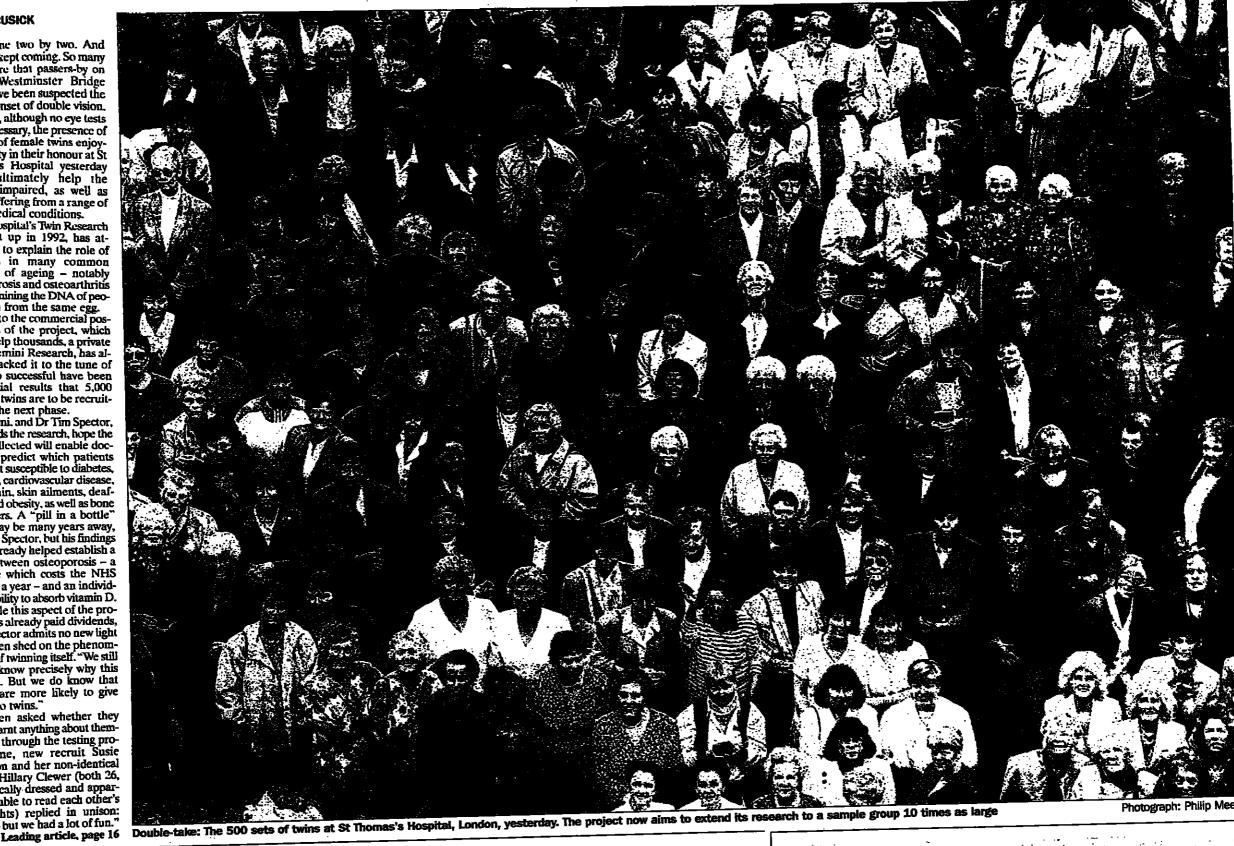
The hospital's Twin Research Unit, set up in 1992, has attempted to explain the role of genetics in many common diseases of ageing - notably osteoporosis and osteoarthritis by examining the DNA of peo-

ple born from the same egg. Wise to the commercial possibilities of the project, which could help thousands, a private firm. Gemini Research, has already backed it to the tune of £1m. So successful have been the initial results that 5,000 pairs of twins are to be recruited for the next phase.

Gemini. and Dr Tim Spector, who leads the research, hope the data collected will enable doctors to predict which patients are most susceptible to diabetes, asthma, cardiovascular disease y back pain, skin ailments, deafness and obesity, as well as bone disorders. A "pill in a bottle" cure may be many years away, says Dr Spector, but his findings have already helped establish a link between osteoporosis - a disease which costs the NHS £750m a year - and an individ-

ual's ability to absorb vitamin D. While this aspect of the project has already paid dividends, Dr Spector admits no new light has been shed on the phenomenon of twinning itself. "We still don't know precisely why this occurs. But we do know that twins are more likely to give birth to twins.

When asked whether they had learnt anything about themselves through the testing programme, new recruit Susie Gibbon and her non-identical twin, Hillary Clewer (both 26, identically dressed and apparently able to read each other's thoughts) replied in unison:



News Corp to sue over 'inflated' smart card costs

PETER RODGERS **Business Editor**

Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation said yesterday it is to press ahead with a claim for £19m in damages from suppliers of "smart cards" to BSkyB. It claims it was outsmarted for some years by the suppliers of its cards, who used a highly secure encryption technology invented in Israel.

The electronic smart cards are at the heart of the business of BSkyB and other television operations in which News Corp is involved. They are the key that unlocks satellite TV programmes for subscribers and only viewers with cards can

guin access. The suppliers are alleged to have artificially inflated the

the excess profits between a

number of individuals. The defendants in the action, in which News Corp alleges a conspiracy, include former ex-ecutives of subsidiaries of News

Among these subsidiaries is News Datacom, the group's conduit for the supply of smart cards to its satellite television

Arthur Siskind, a New Yorkbased director of News Corp and the company's general counsel, said the action in London involved individuals and companies no longer connect-ed with the group. We believe the problem has been remedied. What we are seeking is redress for the damages that have been

He said the main problem



Rupert Murdoch: Claiming damages of £19m

smart cards, had been overcome, there were now several sources and prices had fallen. Ian Rosenblan, a London so-

mar Marya, a California businessman, and several of his associated companies which are defendants in the case, said There are questionable motives for this litigation and we are defending it vigorously. We deny any conspiracy." The case is not expected to come to

court until next year. Mr Rosenblatt rejected an allegation in News Corp's writ that PMI, an offshore company that supplied smart cards to News Corp. was 40 per cent owned by the Marya companies. The writs allege that PMI was a conduit for some of the excess

profits earned in selling the smart cards at inflated prices to News Corp. The alleged conspiracy also included obstruction of the media company's attempts to diversify its supply

of smart cards. News Corp also alleged that income tax liability in Israel."

difficulties in the management of News Datacom between 1987 and 1992 were caused by the "unauthorised acts of certain of the defendants who are the subject of the lawsuit. News Corporation reaffirms its complete faith in the current man-

agement of News Datacom." A spokesman for News Corp rejected related allegations in the Financial Times that the company had indulged in "questionable tax planning" to minimise tax bills in the UK and Israel, where the smart card

technology came from.

He said the company had "fully complied with its obliga-tions under all tax laws to which it is subject. In particular, the company's Israeli subsidiary, since its inception, has had accumulated losses and, as a consequence, has not incurred

price of the cards charged to News Corp faced, its vulnerable to a single supplier of licitor representing Bharat Ku-Grass isn't always greener for water firm

Severn Trent Water has come up with a foolproof way for keen gardeners to conserve water this summer - pave over their lawns with concrete slabs.

The water company, which imposed a six-month hosepipe ern Trent, described the ideas ban on its 3 million customers as "crackpot". He said: "I have and made a profit of £238m last year, is also advising gardeners dicrous. They would do better that they could make their to conserve water by stopping lawns smaller by increasing the size of flower borders or leave sponsible for. They are ones regrass clippings on the ground to keep lawns looking greener.

Other ideas in a leaflet sent to households across the Midlands include leaving grass growing longer and saving rain

Labour MP Robin Corbett, whose Birmingham Erdington constituency is covered by Sevnever heard of anything so lu-

The leaflet tells gardeners: "Tradition dictates that we have a lawn - but do we really need one? Why not increase the size of your borders or replace lawned areas with paving stones

or gravel?" A spokesman for Severn Trent Water said the leaflet had been written to help gardeners prepare for a summer drought. He said replacing lawns with paving was just one solution to drought problems and other advice included what plants to use and to collect rainwater in a bucket.

deners aware of how they can put their gardens together to withstand the sort of droughts we saw last year. We do give other advice such as which plants to use, how to collect water in a bucket and so on.

"Basically we are trying to help gardeners who are cheesed off with seeing their lawn go brown and dead in the heat. We are just giving them ideas as to how they could organise their gardens differently - but only if they want to."
The spokesman said the

leaflet, which was launched last week, had the backing of gar-dener and broadcaster Anne Swithinbank, who appears on Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time: "It is our way of building bridges to gardeners who cooperated very well with us last summer when we had the

drought." A spokesman for the water industry regulator, Ofwat, said it welcomed customers being responsible about water conservation but did not want gardeners to think they had to pave over their lawns.

Yellow stands for the flames that burn away the past allowing new ideas to grow. With HP colour printing and copying solutions you can announce any new ideas in yellow.





Fran Abrams Education Correspondent

New accusations of political bias were levelled at the Chief

Inspector of Schools last night after the leaking of a critical report on reading standards in three London boroughs. The report, due to be published by the school inspection body, Ofsted, next week, is believed to say that almost eight

out of 10 seven-year-olds in Islington, Tower Hamlets and Southwark have reading ages below their actual age. It is expected to add that head teachers show "insufficient leadership" in one in three schools and that teachers are tioned the future role of local held back by a lack of knowledge and training.

The report is also likely to say that time devoted to reading is not always used to good

ities said the final version of the report had been altered and that an earlier draft had more praise for the work of teachers. A paragraph emphasising the exceptional demands made on teachers by pupils from de-prived backgrounds and with special needs appeared to have been deleted, they said. One sentence which had said that two-thirds of lessons were satisfactory had been altered to say that one-third was unsatisfac-

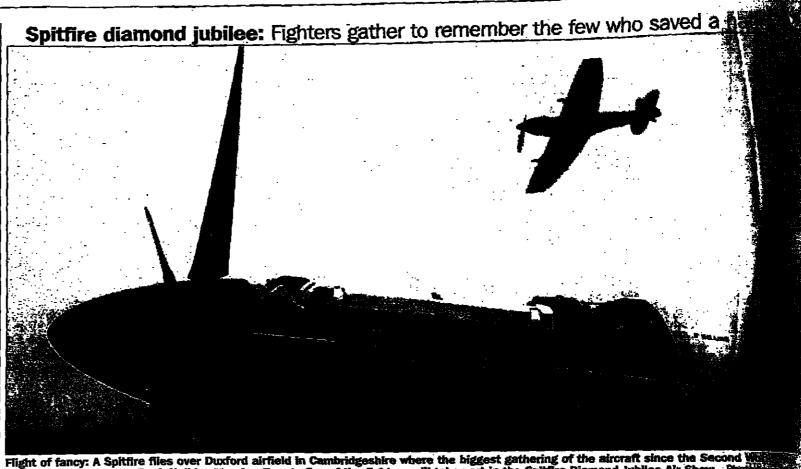
tory.
Mr Woodhead has repeatedly been accused of right-wing poa pamphlet for a right-wing think tank, Politeia, which queseducation authorities. He also gramme that 15,000 inadequate teachers should be sacked. prompting protests that he had failed to mention the 45,000

in the three boroughs was an-nounced by John Major last September. The three boroughs ed inspectors into 45 primary schools on the understanding that it was meant to draw atnight they claimed it had been hijacked for political ends.

Phil Kelly, chairman of edu cation in Islington, said: "The report has been redrafted to emphasis problems in teachers' skills and teachers' leadership. The slanting of the report in this way is clearly intended to pan-der to the prejudices of Mr Woodhead's political masters." Anne Worsley, chairman of

education in Southwark, added: "The draft of the report has clearly been altered at the instigation of the chief inspector." A spokesman for Ofsted defended the report but refused

to confirm the details.



on Bank Holiday Monday. Twenty five of the fighters will take part in the Spitfire Diamond Jubilee Air Show

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Cancer patients tell of callousness

THE INDEPENDENT - FRIDAY & ME

Cancer patients speak out fects, post-treatment symptoms frankly today about their treat- and all aspects of living with canment in a unique report documenting their experiences. Many say they are not given enough information and want more honesty from the doctors dealing with them.

The study involves people from four regions of England, all of whom say they had not received enough information, and some information was deliberately withheld. The doctor was considered the best person to provide information

Patients wanted to know about diagnostic procedures to avoid fear and upset from lack of understanding of what to expect. They also expected information on procedures and It took 20 seconds and he nev-potential success rates, side-ef-er mentioned cancer."

cer. Many patients reported that the attitude of health proveloping an effective working

treated with respect for their personal dignity and as people with individual needs - not as a tumour to be processed.Paamples of thoughtlessness or callous behaviour at the point "He said 'It's not looking good, we will have to have your right that was it; he walked out and that was the only thing I knew.

Meteorites prompt a rash of UFO 'sightings'

A huge meteorite shower in the skies over Scotland and Northern Ireland sparked hundreds of calls from worried onlookers reporting UFOs, weather fore-

casters said yesterday. Police and coastguards between Stornoway and Glasgow were inundated with calls when the spectacular light display Wednesday night.

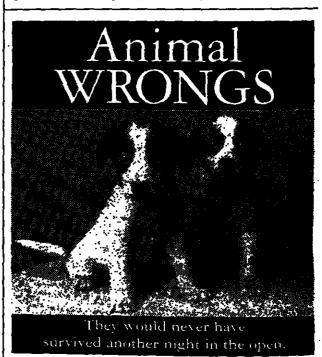
Meteorologists were yesterday investigating the reports, but could not say if more meteorites would be visible. Witnesses spoke of seeing bright lights early yesterday.

vapour trails behind them. A Glasgow Weather Centre

spokesman said: "We certainly took a lot of calls ... because when people see an unusual light in the sky they immediately think of UFOs.

"Apparently it was a very large and very bright shower which was visible over much of the country. It would have been quite spectacular."

Reports of the shower came from the Western Isles, Strathcivde and over to Uister until



Beni and Bonney - two tiny puppies, were found shivering and remined in a dirch on a freezing December night. Pitifully thin and covered in weeping sores, it seemed they had never known love and care.

Blue Cross gave them the first kindness they had known, as well as urgently-needed vererinary care. After several weeks with us, the pups made a full recovery.

To treat, feed and care for the pups cost around £150. Blue Cross relies entirely on your generosity to continue its life-saving work. Your monthly gift of £2 or more could help

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'It was like coming home

that the Government would

Nadir give condition

Bankside project

Bankside project: Scheme to transform derelict site into centre for arts takes major leap



palace: Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate, checks out Bankside, the gallery's new £12m acquisition

Postal workers set to strike

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

Britain faces the prospect of the first national postal strike for a decade after union leaders yesterday ordered a ballot on industrial action in a dispute over bours and working practices. Leaders of the Communica-

tion Workers' Union yesterday declared that stoppages were "almost inevitable" after 11 months of negotiations over a "new way of working" broke

down on Wednesday night. While management regis-tered its intention to engage in an intensive communications campaign with employees over the next few weeks, some have privately conceded that a vote

in favour of action looks likely. The union will urge its 140,000 members to back nationwide stoppages in support of an immediate reduction in

days to five and a cut in hours. system would increase basic At the heart of the dispute is pay from £187 to £211, says suspicion among activists that a plan to introduce team-working would bypass the union's own communications structure. There is also deep distrust about the motives of management among ordinary union members, many of whom have taken part in a series of wildcat stoppages

over the last 18 months. Despite repeated denials from management, employees fear there is a "hidden agenda" to drop the second postal de-livery thus cutting back on the number of full-time jobs.

The postal executive of the CWU yesterday agreed unani-mously to begin balloting their members on 13 May, with the result expected on 2 June at the annual conference in Blackpool. In return for new working practices, management has of-fered a five-day week and a job Photograph: Philip Meech | the working week from six guarantee by 2000. A new pay

management. However, staff would retain only three of their 30 extra allowances. Average earnings would increase by up to £30 to £300 a week although managers will not quantify how much would be "new money"

Alan Johnson, joint general secretary of the CWU, seized on an admission by Brian Thom-son, Royal Mail personnel di-rector, that while 70 per cent of employees would earn more, around 30 per cent, who relied on overtime and allowances to make up their pay, would lose out. That was not the basis for

a settlement, Mr Johnson said. Mr Thomson said the service was "on the edge of a precipice". The union was expecting to get a cut in working time without making concessions. But he said negotiations were not complete and Royal Mail was prepared to put extra money on the table.

r Patjen rallous .

Joy for Tate as £12m gift buys power house

Bankside power station, which is being turned into a major cultural centre, has been bought for the Tate Gallery for £12m by the regenerative agency English Partnerships, it was announced

yesterday. The Tate has also gained planning permission from Southwark council for its plans to transform the striking build-ing on the south bank of the river Thames in London, Tate director Nicholas Serota said.

English Partnerships' money goes to Magnox plc, the publicly owned section of the nuclear industry which owns the site and is decommissioning it.
Mr Serota said: "This in-

vestment will help turn a derelict site at the heart of the capital into a major cultural, social and economic asset for Southwark and the nation."

The project was also recent-

hoped to open it in 2000. The Tate Gallery must find the rest of the estimated total of £106m cost from other sources. Mr Serota said remaining money had to be found by February next year.

But he added: "I can assure you that we have a large number of commitments and we are making really excellent progress in getting that money and are well on our way to reaching that

Yesterday's £12m regeneration grant was the first part of that, he said. English Partnerships chief executive, David Taylor, said the grant was un-

conditional.
"This investment will help turn this redundant and derelict building into a major national landmark," he said.

"It will create up to 1,000 new jobs for people in Southwark and will promote the broader regeneration of the area."

It was the first time, perhaps in Europe, that a former power station had been reclaimed for new use, he said.

The Department of Envily awarded a £50m grant by the ronment had spent millions de-National Lottery-backed Mil-lennium Commission, and it is stations, as had the Department of Energy and CEGB after it, he said.

Magnox Electric chairman Mark Baker said: "Not only will Bankside get continued life as a valuable public asset, the taxpayer has benefited too."

Nadir gives conditions for his return

JOHN WILLCOCK

Asil Nadir, the former Polly Peck boss who fled to Northern Cyprus while facing fraud charges, yesterday said he would return to face trial only if a new government were elected and key regulatory figures replaced.

In a bizarre press conference with British journalists via a radio link from Northern Cyprus, he accused the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), Scotland Yard. the Inland Revenue and the Government of conspiring to frame him. He would only receive a fair trial if a new gov-ernment was elected which had 'clean hands", he said.

The conference, in London, was held to launch a book, Who Killed Polly Peck?, by Nadir's former business associate Elizabeth Forsyth. The 59year-old grandmother was unable to attend as she has been iailed for five years for handling £400,000 stolen by Nadir, who fled in May 1993 while being investigated by the SFO on 13 charges of fraud and false accounting amounting to £34m. They concerned the collapse of his fruit-packing-to-electronics group, Polly Peck, a 1980s star of the stock market which crashed in 1990.

Yesterday Nadir reiterated that the authorities and "people with money" were out to get him, not least because the self-proclaimed Tarkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is not recog-nised by Britain. When asked if he would really return to face trial, he replied: "I certainly will. No regulatory authority and no government is in power for ever. Thank God there is a cerlain amount of democratic election and we know the elections are approaching. I hope the British public will give their view of what they think of the British

He defended his decision not to return to help Forsyth's defence, saying the judge re-fused to allow a video link for him to testify and be cross-examined. Forsyth's fate was a great disappointment from a British justice point of view".

Nadir said he had been unjustly persecuted by the SFO, Scotland Yard and the Department of Public Prosecutions.

Nadir cultivated political contacts while in Britain. He famously sent a wristwatch to the former Tory minister Michael Mates with the inscription "Don't let the bastards grind you down" on the back.

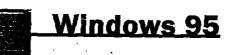
The self-made man from Nicosia also contributed thousands of pounds to the Conservatives. Asked whether he regretted these donations, he said: "I never regret anything in my life. I regret having trusted the authorities.

Polly Peck was in the top 100 companies on the UK stock market in 1990 and was worth £2bn. It hit trouble that year when Nadir tried to buy the company back into private ownership without properly consulting his City advisers. Following a Stock Exchange inquiry the company went into administration. Shareholders lost everything.

Yesterday Nadir sent them a message, saying he would pay them back when he had proved his innocence.

"My hattle is two-pronged one is to clear my name, and two is to ensure that at the appropriate time Polly Peck shareholders, by being active, get compensated in two ways.

"Firstly, with what I am endeavouring to build for them, which I will share with them at the end of the day, and two is by them fighting to seek the truth, because the truth is only their only weapon in this unjust



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Major warns IRA ceasefire must come soon'

John Major yesterday warned the IRA that the ceasefire would have to be "credible, clear cut and certain" for Sinn Pein is to be admitted to the all-

party talks on 10 June. The Prime Minister appealed to the IRA to resume the ceasefire with an assurance that the all-party talks on will be "serious". But his remarks in the Commons underlined growing

leave it until the 11th hour before calling a tactical cessaion of violence to allow Sinn Fein to gain admission to the

Behind the Prime Minister's remarks lies the clear threat that ministers could still seek to block Sinn Fein's admittance if the ceasefire is seen as an empty gesture. Mr Major said there the IRA not to stay their violence immediately

He said: "The all party negotiations will be serious and

will start on 10 June . . . they will gain nothing by waiting."

In spite of the Prime Minis-

ter's appeal, the British and Irish Governments are at logger-heads over the plan put forward by Dick Spring, the Irish For-eign Minister, for the decommissioning of IRA weapons to be hived off into separate talks on 10 June.

It was strongly attacked by David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Leader, after it was raised in the *Independent* by Mr Spring, "I think Mr Spring is

making a mistake . . . It's quite unnecessary. We have already been there. We set up an international commission by Senator George Mitchell to deal with decommissioning. My impression is the Irish Govern-

ment are dragging their heels."
Mo Mowlam, Labour's
spokeswoman on Northern Ireand Sinn Fein to the negotiatland, said Mr Spring's proposals were "entirely in keeping with the (Mitchell) report and provide the most sensible way

The Governm

to say anything officially about the Spring proposals to avoid causing a crisis before the all-London has told Dublin that Mr causing a crisis before the all-party talks, but they now hang in the balance, and Ms Mowlam's remarks out pressure on the Government to intensify its efforts to reach a compromise which will bring the Unionists

ing table. Downing Street refused to commit the Prime Minister to opening the talks, in spite of the request to do so by Dublin. Min-

Spring's ideas will not work if they are not accepted by the

Mr Trimble said the Uister Unionists had shifted from their demand for decommissioning before the all-party talks with Sinn Fein to accept parallel decommissioning, as recom-mended by the Mitchell report. But the Ulster Unionists ob-

the intention and British ministers were last night secking a compromise to allow the talks to make progress on 10 June, if Sinn Fein is admitted.

"They are all engaged in electioneering at the moment. The remarkable thing is the Unionists have accepted the Mitchell report, which includes parallel decommissioning. We are looking for a way through the problem," said one minis-terial source. ject to the Dublin proposals because it appears they would

involve a separate set of talks.

Irish sources said that was not

Fergus Finiay, a political adviser to Mr Spring, was accused by Roy Beggs, the Ulster Unionist MP, of saying the talks would be a waste of time without Sinn Fein. He called on Mr Major for an assurance that the talks would still have influence

if Sinn Fein did not attend.

The Prime Minister assared MPs that the talks would go ahead, if Sinn Fein did not af-tend. If there is no creatible, clear cut and certain ceases Sinn Fein can in no sense ch to be a democratic party.

Mayor sees red over 'scruffy' council

RICHARD SMITH

Labour councillor Adrian Greg-son has caused a party rift by turning up for a meeting in a Manchester United football

Now the 33-year-old counfrom his own party if he makes another appearance in a United shirt at a Labour-run Worcester City Council meet-

ing.
Mr Gregson went to a meeting on Tuesday, kitted out in a United shirt, a pair of rugby shorts, tennis socks and training shoes, to protest against a dressing down directed at scruffy councillors by Labour's mayor-elect Les Thomas.

Mr Thomas, 61, who becomes mayor next month, told councillors that some of them looked like they were heading for the beach and needed to smarten up. He has said he intends to seek legal advice to banish members from the chamber unless they wear a iacket and tie.

"I'm quite sure last night was a protest against my remarks and I'm very disappointed," said Mr Thomas, who was defending his Nunnery ward seat

in yesterday's local elections. I think it's bad form. It just showed a lack of dignity for the council and respect for the position. He did smile at me and I smiled at him but I was very disappointed ... Everybody treated it as a joke when I brought this up, but the point I was making was that people in the city look up to us and expect us to dress to a standard. We are, after all, the city fathers.

"Back in the 60's the High his garden in an old pair of grey flannels and a shirt when a member of the public asked him if he thought it becoming to dig the garden in such old clothes.
"If that person had been in

the chamber last night he would have blown a fuse. When I take office I intend to ask the city solicitor if I can tell councillors who I think are improperly dressed that they should retire from the meeting

until they put on a jacket and Mr Gregson, the Hereford and Worcester branch secretary for the public sector union Unison, said he would continue to dress casually when it suited him. "It's not important what you wear or what you look

like," he insisted. "People judge you by what you say and do. There are a couple of us who

have been known to turn up for meetings in the summer wear-'I normally wear whatever

I've got on during the day. If it's appropriate to wear a jacket and tie for work then I will but if it's not then I don't.

"I knew Les wouldn't appreciate the shirt but at least United play in red ...

"If we had not beaten Nottingham Forest I don't think I would have been seen wearing it in public but now United are quite definitely going to win the



Hague urges councils to publish child abuse report

ROGER DOBSON

Councils working on publishing the confidential and controversial report into widespread child abuse at Children's homes in North Wales have been told by the Secretary of State for Wales, William Hague, that they must act quickly and fix a publication date.

The move by Mr Hague follows growing concern that the report is at risk of becoming bogged down in bureaucracy because of the need for at least four councils to agree on what

The report's authors are willing to take another look at their 300-page document to try and remove any hindrance to its publication. John Jillings, the former director of social services in Derbyshire, who chaired the inquiry panel, said yesterday: "I every effort is made by the lo-

have written to the council say-ing I would be happy to try and assist with the publication of the report and invited them to contact me. Today I have had some preliminary contact, and I can say no more than that."

Clwyd County Council, which commissioned the report and who decided in March not to publish it, despite two years of work by three leading specialists in child care, ceased to exist after local government reorganisation on 1 April.

Four of the successor authorities have now been told by Mr Hague to find a way of publishing the report which itself calls for a judicial inquiry into the events at children's homes in Wales which led to Britain's biggest child abuse police inquiry. In his letter yesterday, he said: "I think it is essential that

published, and soon.

"I look forward to hearing the outcome of your initial deliberations and in particular, the details of your timetable for rendering the report publishable."

The report reveals in detail what went on in homes over a 21 year period, looks at the types of abuse that occurred, who carried it out, and criticises the role of the Welsh Office and other

The report's summing up says: "It is clear that in a significant number of cases the lives of young people who have been through the care system in Chyd have been severely disrupted and disturbed. At least

12 young people are dead.
"These issues are of fundamental importance and we regard it as imperative that they dren's homes over two decades.

cal authorities to produce a ver- are addressed in the full view of sion of this report that can be public scrutiny. We consider that a public judicial inquiry . . .

should be initiated." One of the reasons for not publishing it was the belief that it might contain libels against individuals. Welsh Office lawyers have been closely examining it over the past two weeks.

Labour's spokesman on health in Wales, Rhodri Morgan, said: "The report must be published but we also must not lose sight of its main recommendation, that there is an urgent need for a full judicial

inquiry."

Mr Hague has not ruled out a judicial inquiry which, it is es-timated, could cost up to £5m. Supporters of the call for such an inquiry say that it is the only way of establishing what really went on in North Wales chil-



Ministers told to keep tabs on edicts from Europe

Ministers are to be held responsible for checking all European legislation to cut down red tape on business and charities, under deregulation measures announced yesterday by

that they should carry out their checks "at the earliest possible stage". And it points out "It is much easier to influence a proposal when it is being discussed within the Commission than when it is being discussed within the Council of Ministers". The risk and cost assessment target, and in the Council of Ministers". will also apply to all government problem.

Ministers must personally certify that they have read both the risk assessment and a compliance cost assessment in order to satisfy themselves that the benefits of the regulation justi-

legislation in the initiative on deregulation masterminded by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister.

The guidance to all Whitehall departments says new laws must be necessary, aimed at the right The risk and cost assessment target, and in proportion to the

It also applies to all docu-ments for the Cabinet or Cab-inet committees, and all minutes to No 10 Downing Street for collective discussion that deal with proposals for

business, charities and voluntary

bodies, and recommendations

Labour and that is a message

that every voter should re-member," he said. "If they want

then all they have to do is vote

"Southwark, Islington, Well-ingborough - probably almost

any Labour authority you can

mention would have signifi-

Labour and it is guaranteed.

ment during a lawful strike should be a defence in law. With that also must go the right to engage in secondary action, particularly where the employer moves work to another site."

urged to

reform

strike law

Legislation to allow sympathy action by strikers was called for

last night by Kevin McNamara, a former Labour front-bench

spokesman, in a clear message

to the party leadership to re-

verse Tory employment laws, writes Colin Brown.

Secondary action was out-lawed when James Prior was

Baroness Thatcher's employ-ment secretary, but Mr McNa-

mara, a former Northern

Ireland spokesman, said it

should be included in a Bill of

thing which must be recognised," Mr McNamara told a

meeting in Belfast. He said

workers should be able to go on

strike and engage in other in-dustrial action and not be dis-

sion of a contract of employ-

missed by their employer. "A legal right to the suspen-

"Secondary action is some-

workers' rights.

Labour is currently debating reforming trade union laws, but restoring legal rights to secondary action, where there is no connection with the dispute, is ruled out by Labour leaders.

Tagging may be in Tory election plans

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Legal Affairs Editor

A renewed commitment to the electronic tagging of young hooligans may be set to find its way into the Conservative election manifesto under plans being drawn up by the Downing Street Policy Unit and the Home Office.

But the same old irony remains: that it is precisely these kinds of offenders - gangs of thugs who rampage through city centres or council estates who are least likely to be suitable cases for the device.

No one, not least at the Home Office - which has already emphasised it cannot force courts to use it - appears to envisage an explosion in the numbers of louts and rowdies

restrained by such means.
Under the pilot schemes already in existence, in which tagging is used to enforce curfes orders, offenders have cut off their electronic anklets for reasons such being made to feel like a dog, or because of an at-

tack by other youths.
While early technological hitches seem to have been ironed out, only 50 orders have resulted from the pilots in Reading, Norfolk and Man-chester. They have already been extended once in an effort to drum up enthusiasm.

Much as the Tories want to use tagging as part of a crusade against anti-social and threatening behaviour, magistrates remain highly cautious about its place among other community sentences and sceptical about its use in all but a handful of cas-

In the meantime, the cost is enormous. Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, puts it at around £30,000 per taggee based on the £1.3m committed to the pilot schemes. According to Mr Fletcher, that is twice as expensive as jail.

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He also estimates that it would require at least 15,000 offenders to be tagged, instead of imprisoned, for the scheme to be cost-effective.

Home Office officials appear to be setting their ambi-tions somewhat lower at this stage, but in the meantime they are desperately seeking alternatives to expensive jail terms for less serious offenders.

The principal targets are not, as Tory politicians would like us to think, inner-city hooligans, but the fine defaulters cluttering up the jails, often women and people who fail to pay their television licence. Two further target groups are of-fenders who might merit two to three months in jail for property-related crimes, and as a way of monitoring prisoners released on parole or licence.

Such plans at least have the advantage of not seeking to restrain the kind of offender who is inherently unstable, and often violent. Rosemary Thomson, chairman of the Magistrates Association, said magistrates were also cautiously optimistic that tagging for fine defaulting might prove useful.

This comes at a time when magistrates appear to have dropped any faith in curfews and tagging as a means of pre-venting further offending, except in a rather limited number should be used purely as a punishment restricting liberty. It would not, however, produce money from people who had failed to pay.

There is much more scepticism about using such a pun-ishment for petty criminals who would otherwise merit jail. Mr Fletcher said: "In reality, the 13g will never be an alternative and will just be added to existing community sentences. The only way it could be used as an alternative is by letting people out of prison early – but that wouldn't be politically accept-

Hint of autumn election has rumour mill buzzing

Arumour that the Govern-ment is clearing the par-liamentary decks in order to go for an autumn general election was given the added stamp of a Commons airing yesterday. With MPs either raking over the Tory leadership hooha, the beef crisis or doing a bit of council electioneering. Ann Taylor, shadow leader of the Commons, tried a different tack.

"Rumours are circulating that the Government intends to

clear the decks of government

business by July so as to min-



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Parliament

Goodwin

session in October and thereby prepare the ground for an au-tumn election," she said during questions of forthcoming Com-Tony Newton, Leader of the

<u>C3115</u> i

Commons, agreed that there did indeed seem to be a lot rumours about, including a suggestion the House might rise for its sum-

mer "very, very early" in July. Normally MPs begin their holidays in the last week of July and return in mid-October for a couple of weeks finishing off legislation before the new parliamentary begins in early But Mr Newton said he did

not know who was putting the rumours around. "I only know

it is not me and I do not want

to give any credence to them."

acceptance and surgery.

While Tories readied them-selves for a pasting in the local elections, John Major heartened his backbenchers with an acid remark about "smug" Labour politicians taking too much for granted. Bridget Prentice, Labour MP for Lewisham East, recalled

ever discussed with Mr Hesel-

tine the possibility that you would stand aside and allow

Court of Justice round was "It was like coming home," behaviour of the school direction that the Government workship said. "When I realised that tors breached the 1976 Euro have to amend legislation.

that three times on Thesday, the Prime Minister failed to give a direct answer to questions about a deal with his deputy, Michael Heseltine. "Have you

a familiar warning. "The 10 highest council taxes are all your deputy to take over if by tomorrow Conservative Party fortunes have not improved? Mrs Prentice asked. Mr Major bit back: "The

last Labour politician who was that smug about elections is now earning his living elsewhere in Europe." The reminder of the misplaced hubris of Neil Kinnock in the 1992 election campaign hit home on the Opposition benches. The former party leader is now a European Commissioner.
The Prime Minister used his

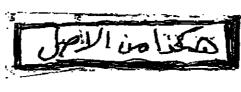
polling day Question Time for

cantly higher council tax than the previous year and higher than a comparable Conservative authority. Wellingborough? Did the

Northamptonshire town really warrant such scorn? Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, went in search of statistics. Though Wellingbor-ough council has 16 Labour to pay an extra £225 on band D. members, it is in fact run by 15 Tories with the help of three independents, he said later.

John Major tells a lie nearly every time he speaks. He is trying to blame Labour for hat the Tories are doing in Wellingborough. It's like blam-ing Labour for arms to Iraq and mad cow disease. I don't think he can help himself any more."

birth certificates and passports. | missioning IRA weapons. that the Government would such as married



election

Allason row Claim over 'malicious' report rejected

Tory MP loses case against Blair press aide

MICHAEL STREETER

The Conservative MP Rupert Allason faces legal costs of up to £250,000 after his claim of malicious falsehood against Tony Blair's press secretary and Mirror Group Newspapers was rejected by the High Court.
Judge Sir Maurice Drake

ruled yesterday that the MP for Torbay had suffered no financial loss over a Daily Mirror story claiming that 50 MPs had signed a Commons motion attacking Mr Allason.

The judge also decided that the MP had already reached a settlement with MGN over inaccuracies in the article, which included a published correction and a letter of "assurance" from Alastair Campbell, then political editor.

Though ruling against Mr Al-lason, Sir Maurice agreed there had been falsehood and malice in the Mirror story and said that as a witness Mr Campbell had not been "wholly convincing or satisfactory". The judge said: "He did not impress me as a witness in whom I could feel 100 per cent confidence.

Afterwards Mr Allason, 44, who writes under the name Nigel West, said he was disappointed at the verdict but pleased the judge had found malice and falsehood in the article and hinted he may appeal. This may not be the end of the story by a long chalk," he said. He also has two further libel actions outstanding.

Mr Campbell, who denied responsibility for the story and the Early Day Motion which caused it, said later that the case should never have been brought. There never was a shred of evidence against me. I now intend to get back to doing what I do."

Mirror Group lawyer Martin Cruddace said costs for the case, awarded against Mr Allason, would be "up to £250,000". Costs for two pre-Mr Allason, were "insignifi- Campbell - who was "general- it, "enrich lawyers".

cant", he said, though the MP ly up to no good" - with a hand-later disputed the amount of written EDM trying to get a MP

damages he would have to pay. The six day high profile case centred on what the MGN's barrister Charles Gray QC described as a "minor, very short little item" in the Daily Mirror on 20 November 1992 It claimed that 50 MPs had "challenged" Mr Allason to hand over his estimated

£250,000 recent libel damages from MGN to struggling Maxwell pensioners. The Mirror later published a correction, as only seven MPs had signed the motion, and Mr Campbell wrote to Mr Allason



Rupert Aliason: Torbay MP faces costs of £250,000

assuring him he had not been behind the EDM or the story. However, the MP later sued for malicious falsehood, claiming that Campbell had been seen in the Commons "solicit-

ing" MP's to sign the motion and that Daily Mirror journalist Andy McSmith, now on the Observer, was also responsible for

The most colourful evidence came from the Labour MP George Galloway, who de-

to sign.
In his judgment Sir Maurice acknowledged the "utter con-tempt" Mr Galloway clearly had for Mr Campbell, who in turn disliked the MP. Though Mr Galloway had been an impressive witness he was the only one claiming to have seen the canvassing, said the judge, and on the evidence, including Mr Campbell's strong denial, the "scales tilted" towards the defendant's case.

The judge ruled that Mr Campbell played no part in the EDM or the story, and despite "strongly malicious" feel-ings towards Mr Allason was not linked to the malice and falsity of the published story. Mr McSmith was also not involved. However, Sir Maurice said the Daily Mirror had been malicious because their employee David Bradshaw, Mr Campbell's deputy, had conceived the idea of the EDM, rushed into print without being able to check the number of signatures and had not approached Mr Allason.

The case failed because of the earlier settlement and the MP's failure to prove he lost a \$100,000 book deal as a direct

result of the story.

During the hearing, Mr Allason had introduced a lighter note when he asked Mr Campbell whether he had ever written soft porn articles under the name "Rowena Gigolo". In his youth, yes, but not using that name, said Mr Campbell. For the MP it is his first le-

gal defeat in 23 cases, with one draw". But he disputes he is "litigious". "I get things wrong and I have to make a correction in my book - I just expect other people to do the same." With a hefty legal bill likely

potentially bigger than the £200,000 damages he won from MGN in 1992 - Mr Allason may be consoled that he represents liminary hearings, awarded to scribed how he had seen Mr himself and does not, as he puts



Balancing act: Performers with the Chinese State Circus in rehearsal for their first tour outside China which is due to open tomorrow at the Brighton Festival, The circus will stay in the town until 26 May before a nationwide tour ends at the Edinburgh Festival

BMA says no tests for mass killers

WILL BENNETT

Britain's doctors have called for stricter firearms controls but have warned that medical and osychiatric tests on gun licence applicants will not prevent mass killings such as those in Dunblane and Tasmania.

The British Medical Association has told a parliamentary committee investigating firearms laws that such crimes cannot be predicted and doctors do not want to be involved in testing would-be gun owners.

"It is not possible from a medical viewpoint to assist in any reliable way with the prediction of those positively safe with firearms nor those who are unsafe," said Dr. Mac Armin a letter to the House of Com- committee that tests by doctors behaviour, but only a tiny extraordinary and tragic events involved in the early trials.

mons Select Committee on would not prevent such Home Affairs

The committee is investigating firearms laws in the wake of the massacre in Dunblane, in the Central region, in March when 16 children and their teacher were shot dead.

There have been suggestions that doctors should be required to assess the past medical and psychiatric history of gun cer-

tificate applicants
The BMA published its evidence to the committee yesterday four days after the slaughter of 35 people by a gunman in Port Arthur in the Australian state of Tasmania again raised the issue of firearms controls.

After consulting BMA mem-

tragedies happening and "we would be very reluctant to see the issue of any such certificate

made dependent on a single medical report". He added: "We would particularly resist any suggestions that a GP should be the sole medical referee for an application for a certificate permitting the possession of handguns or

automatic or semi-automatic weapons. Even a specialist psychiatric mental state examination resulting in a 'normal' report will not obviate the possible future development of

Past history may give clues to future illness and past violent behaviour is considered the

minority of patients with diagnosed psychiatric illness are dangerous and we suspect that have something to do with meatal illness... There is an unfortunate possibility that if we most violent offences involving firearms are carried out by people who are not mentally ill."

He went on: "The BMA recommends that the Government considers further tightening of the regulations on the types of firearms legally available in this country.

The BMA is wortled both that individual doctors could be blamed for approving certificates for gun owners who later commit murder and that the debate about how to prevent mass killings risks stigmatising the mentally ill.

Dr Armstrong said yesterday. "We are really rather concerned

let this drift that the public will come to associate mental illness with a rather mediaeval notion of danger.

The BMA also issued guidelines on the transplant of animal organs into humans yesterday. It said that such operations should only be carried out when there was a reasonable chance of success and that preference should be given to using human organs where possible.

There should be a supervisory body monitoring such cases, it said, patients should be told about the risks and allowed to refuse transplants from anistrong, secretary of the BMA, bers Dr Armstrong told the best predictor of future violent with the suggestion that these mals and children should not be

Arms-to-Iraq case Briton is freed by South Africa

CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

Paul Grecian, the British businessman who had his conviction for supplying arms to Iraq overturned on appeal in this country, only to be rearrested in South Africa on similar charges, was yesterday freed by a Johannesburg court.

Mr Grecian had been in prison in South Africa since last December, when he flew to the country for a holiday following his victory at the Court of Appeal. On landing at Johannesburg airport he was arrested by the South African authorities, pending a move by US prosecutors to have him extradited to face charges there.

In rejecting the extradition application, Danie Oberholzer, the magistrate in Kempton Park, on the outskirts of Johannesburg, said the offences Mr Grecian had been charged with in the US would not have amounted to crimes if they had



Paul Grecian: Arrested on arrival in Johannesburg

been committed in South

"I really did not expect to get a result today - it comes as a to-tal surprise," said Mr Grecian. He faced four charges in the US: sending weapons to Iraq:

conspiracy; bank fraud and tillery fuse assembly line to making a false statement. "The lraq via Jordan. They only magistrate found they were not extraditable offences," said his South African lawyer, Peter Reynolds.

It was unlikely, said Mr Reynolds, that his client would return to Britain or leave South Africa immediately for fear of still being pursued by the US anthorities. He will stay here until the situation becomes clear had their convictions quashed - he needs an assurance of safe passage," said Mr Reynolds. Until the US lifts the indict-

ment and he is removed from the Interpol "red notice" list be could be arrested again. "It is going to mean that I am not going to do much travelling beyond the shores of the UK and South Africa," said Mr

In 1992, Mr Grecian and two former colleagues. Bryan Mason and Stuart Blackledge, pleaded guilty at Reading

Iraq via Jordan. They only pleaded guilty after the Gov-ernment used Public Interest Immunity Certificates preventing Whitehall officials from giving evidence the exports had previously been cleared by the Department of Trade and Industry and Ministry of De-

by the Court of Appeal. Mr Grecian said vesterday he believed his detention in South Africa and the US's refusal, following his successful appeal, to drop the charges, was political.
"Undoubtedly there were

political elements to it," he said. "When a third country becomes embroiled in a situation like this, which at the end of the day is none of their business, one has to take into account what political pressures the likes of the United States would Crown Court to trying to smug-gle equipment to build an ar-extradition."

Mr Hayes, 58, added: "We

were shocked and delighted to

discover its true value. Like

many churches we face a pro-

gramme of major building work

but we haven't even discussed

the tapestry's future. Selling is

obviously one of the options that

since I was a child it has been

believe its value. If is a won-

Ms Owens, 30, said: "Ever

we will have to look at."

Glory revealed of

church's faded relic

"You're not sure your health insurance will pay my bill, are you?"



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Tycoon 'forced girl into sex threesome'

was raped by the tycoon Ówen Ovston during a three-in-a-bed sex session when she was just 16.

She described how she sat and watched the 62-year-old multimillionaire have sex with another woman in his four-poster bed before she was ordered to take her clothes off and join them.

The woman, who had been training to be a model, told Liverpool Crown Court that Mr Oyston, the Blackpool Football Club chairman, had earlier forced her into oral sex as they were driven to his country mansion in the middle of the night.

The woman insisted: "I didn't even know him. I had never spoken to him. He didn't know me. He treated me as if I were an object and I'm not ... I'm not." Mr Oyston, of Claughton Hall, near Lancaster, denies raping and indecently assaulting the woman between October 1991 and December 1992.

A 20-year-old woman sobbed yesterday as she told a jury she year-old model, who has already given evidence.

The woman told Liverpool Crown Court yesterday how she joined the Manchester agency, Model Team International, as a 14-year-old. She was introduced to Mr Oyston by agency hoss Peter Martin as someone very important and

On about the third occasion she met him, she accompanied Mr Martin, Mr Oyston and a woman called Lisa to Mr Oyston's mansion. She said Mr Oyston had sex with Lisa and then ordered her to join them in bed. Asked why she had done so, the woman replied: "Because I was scared. Because he forced me ... I was in a house in a hed with a guy I didn't even know, an old man. I didn't know old men did things like that. I was 16 years old and he didn't give a damn."

The trial continues today.

A faded tapestry which had France and the third in the fine hung for centuries on the wall arts museum in San Francisco. of a remote rural church without attracting any more than passing attention has been identified as a 16th century mas-

terpiece worth an estimated The Rev David Hayes, vicar of the 14th century St Andrew's church at Presteigne. on the Herefordshire-Welsh border, said: "We knew it was special but not this special."

Its value was eventually realised by a local historian Catherine Owens, who discovered that the 3 sq metre Flemish tapestry - depicting Christ on a donkey - was woven in Antwerp in 1511, and is one of only three similar works in the world

It was believed they were made originally to hang in Canterbury Cathedral but were later moved. One of the others hangs in

Aix-en-Provence in southern

in the church. There were all sorts of stories about it and I decided to find out the truth. "As I looked into it the more amazed I became. I could not

> derful work." Ironically the discovery has deprived parishioners of their treasure. Mr Hayes said: "We could not just ignore the secu-rity needs in this day and age and leave it hanging in the church. It has been removed to a place of safety while we de-

Cantona fan is jailed for attacking lawyer

within the hearing or sight of a

person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress.

cluding him from all football

doesn't excuse his behaviour."

He said Simmons had been

under immense pressure and

had suffered death threats since

the Cantona incident. It had

been suggested by the press that

he was in some way responsible

matches for 12 months.

They also made an order ex-

The football fan who provoked Manchester United's Eric Can-tona to launch his infamous kung-fu kick was jailed for seven days for contempt of court yesterday after attacking a lawyer when he appeared for

Crystal Palace supporter, Matthew Simmons, 21, hurled himself, shouting, at 55-year-old prosecuting counsel Jeffrey Mc-Cann in front of three magistrates at Croydon Magistrates Court in south London.

The attack came after the magistrates ruled that Simmons was guilty of two charges of using threatening words and behaviour during the Cantona incident at Selhurst Park on 25 January 1995.

Mr McCann got to his feet and started to apply for an or-der under the Public Order Act excluding Simmons from football grounds when Simmons leapt over a bench at him.

As police rushed towards him, Simmons swung his legs round over the bench, appearing to kick Mr McCann in the chest. As Mr McCann tried to get away, Simmons - his arms and legs flailing - held on to his collar. Mr McCann broke free as police overpowered Simmons and led him away in handcuffs. Simmons shouted: "I am innocent. I swear on the bible. You press. You are scum."

and serious contempt of court. We feel a turn of custody is ap-For his offences at Selburst Park, the magistrates fined him

£500 and ordered him to pay £200 costs for the first, more serious charge of using threatening, obscene or insulting words of behaviour likely to cause im-mediately unlawful violence by another person,

Mary Richards, jailing Sim-mons for seven days for con-tempt, said: "Your violent

outburst today was an obvious

They ruled there should be no penalty for the second offence of using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour fan in Birmingham in April last year, said Mr Davis. "I have spoken to the police force. They believe he has coped admirably with the pressure that has been heaped on him." He said that recently Sim-

mons had been hospitalised as a result of a severe panic attack which required treatment. He said his client had not at-

tempted to strike Mr McCann. Mr McCann said of yesterday's attack: "I am content to accept his apology. I have no in-tention of pressing charges. I am not injured in any way.

In mitigation for the two offences of using threatening words and behaviour at Selhurst Park, Mr Davis said: "I am sure you will bear in mind what happened to the other party in this matter. You will also bear in mind that Mr Simmons would not have found himself in the position he is in today but for Mr Cantona's actions.

Adam Davis, defending Sim-He said that since the Scimons, said his client was sorry hurst Park incident, Simmons for his attack on Mr McCann. had lost his job as a double-glaz-'He would like to apologise to ing fitter and was now training the court and to the members in word processing.
Outside court, Sonia Sims, soof the public and especially to Mr McCann. This certainly

licitor for Simmons, said he continued to maintain his innocence on the charges of using threatening words or behaviour. "He will now consider his position as far as an appeal Business award: Widow takes centre stage with success



Top act: Janet Holmes à Court celebrates her award as Busine

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Theatre 'queen' takes a bow

Janet Holmes à Court, the Australia's land mass. An in-"Queen of Shaftesbury Av-vestment programme of £11m enue", has been named Businesswoman of the Year.

Holmes a Court and owner of 10 West End theatres received her award at a presentation at Claridges, in London, yesterday. Previous winners of the

award, organised by Veuve Clicquot, include the Body Shop's Anita Roddick, Sophie Mirman of the Sock Shop and Pineapple founder Debbie Mrs Holmes à Court took

over the running of her husband Robert's £350m Heytesbury Holdings business empire after his death from a heart attack in 1990. She reshaped the group which along with Stoll Moss Theatres - London's largest theatre group - includes construction and engineering company John Holland and the Heytesbury Pastoral Group which owns 1.1 per cent of

in the theatre group has in-creased Stoll Moss operating The widow of Robert profits by 107 per cent. A spokeswoman for Veuve

Clicquot said Mrs Holmes à Court was almost a "mirror image" of Nicole Ponsardin in whose memory the awards were set up. Mme Ponsardin took over the running of her husband's vineyards on his death in 1805 and, known as Veuve Clicquot, built up a champagne house of international standing.

Other women shortlisted for

the award were: Linda Allen, 🦸 managing director of Howard Long International; Annoushka Ducas, founder of Links of London; Dr Marry-Lorraine Hughes, chief executive of Portmeirion Potteries; and Rosalyn Wilton, managing director of Reuters Transaction Products. Last year's winner was Patricia Vaz, head of British Telecom's payphones business.

Chef who tried to kill fiancée jailed

A chef was yesterday jailed for all she remembered of the murder his bride-to-be and mother of his two children to

benefit from her life insurance. Andrew McNeill, 31, tried to throttle Paula Kew with her scarf as she returned home The prosecution had told the court McNeill had financial from visiting her parents to show them her wedding dress,

the Old Bailey was told.
"You lay in wait for the woman you were to marry two months on and you strangled her close to death," said Judge Peter Beaumont. He added that the evidence that McNeill's motive had been for financial

gain was "compelling".

McNeill had only failed to kill her because of the "fortuitous" arrival of her sister-in-law at their house in Camberley, Surrey. Miss Kew told the court that

eight years for attempting to attack was seeing McNeill's lips moving as she lay on the bathroom floor. "But I could not hear him. As far as I was concerned I was dead."

problems and was in debt.

McNeill had denied attempted murder on 12 February last year. Two months earlier he had taken out life assurance policies to provide more than £15,000 a year in the event of his of Ms Kew's death. The cou-

ple were due to marry in April. When arrested, McNeili allegedly told police he had arrived home to find the children screaming in the car outside the house. The front door was ajar and his fiancee's body was blocking the hallway.

DAILY POEM

End of the week

By Miroslav Holub

The foundation course is the time-table which sometimes applies from Monday to Friday, sometimes on Saturday, and exceptionally on Sunday, when He rested from all His works,

which we carry in a forgotten pocket so that usually we miss our connection.

But we get there all the same.

It'll be Sunday again, the day of willed songs. In the Spanish Square they will burn eighteen Jewish Marranos in honour of the marriage of Maria Luisa and Carlos.

We will not even stop but go back home by a back street, deep in thought

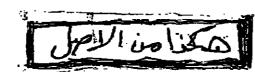
Miroslav Holub is Czech Republic's most important poet and also one of her leading scientists. Inspired by Homer and Virgil as a boy, he began to write verse in his schooldays and has produced 14 collections of poetry, although his work was banned in Czechoslovakia between 1970 and 1980. This poem is taken from his latest collection, published at the end of May, Supposed to Fly (Bloodaxe, £7.95) and he will be reading from this collection tomorrow in the Old Operating Theatre, 9a St Thomas Street, London SE1 9RY (0171 955 4791) at 7.30pm.

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acceptance and surgery. "It was like coming home," behaviour of the school directificates she said. "When I realised that tors breached the 1976 Euro-have to amend legislation.

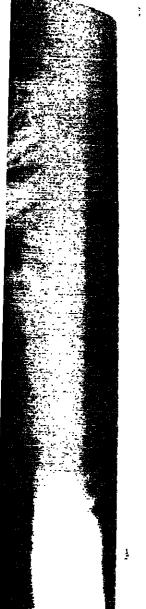
Court of Justice round was ---

birth certificates and passports."



R cle





BR clerk seeks travel rights for lesbian partner

An industrial tribunal was told yesterday that a lesbian couple had been unfairly discriminated against by British Rail in being refused travel concessions.

In what is being seen as a landmark case Lisa Grant, 28, a Southampton Central station booking clerk, is claiming her partner, Jill Percey, 36, is enti-tled to the same travel benefits as are given to the partners of heterosexuals.

Cherie Booth QC, wife of the Labour leader, Tony Blair, told the tribunal at Southampton that it was a novel and interesting case brought on two bases, one under the Equal Pay Act and the other under European law.

She said that the "fine words" of British Rail's equal opportunities policy had not come up to scratch in practice.

The case was about the travel concessions policy for employees of British Rail as it was then, and now South West Trains Limited.

Ms Booth said the travel concession privilege was given in respect of long-term partners in stable relationships, which was taken to mean relationships of two years or more. It was a benefit which was of considerable worth and could amount to a great saving in cash.

The benefit applied to partners of the opposite sex. Ms Booth said.

"What happened in this case was the applicant applied for a travel concession for Jillian Percey," she said. Ms Grant declared she lived with Ms Percey, described as her common law spouse, and had done for two years or more.

Ms Booth said Ms Grant contrasted her position with that of a male employee, Mr Potter, who had a common law spouse and had been granted travel facilities for her.

The QC referred to British



Lisa Grant (above) and jill



Rail's equal opportunities policy document which spoke of ending unfair discrimination and said the only justifiable rea-

sons for discriminating was the inability to do the job. It said that discrimination on any other grounds was against

policy and could be illegal. "Unfortunately for Ms Grant they were fine words which did not come up to scratch in practice," said Ms Booth.

sexual preferences and she 1994 the Railways Board were concerned to widen and take into account issues of sexual

Nicholas Underhill QC, for South West Trains, said that neither English law nor European Union law prohibited discrimmation against homosexuals. Obviously different views are possible about whether it should do so but at present it

does not," he said.

Mr Underhill said his submission had already been decided in his favour by the Employment Appeal Tribunal and by the Court of Appeal, and the tribunal was bound by those decisions.

He told the tribunal: "You should not be tempted to attempt to fill gaps in the legislation which are clearly political questions. The right way to outlaw discrimination against homosexuals is to do it through

After hearing legal submis-sions from both sides, the tribunal chairman, Ian Edwards, said the tribunal would reserve its decision and the hearing concluded for the day. After the hearing, Ms Percey

said she and Ms Grant had expected to have to await judgment on their case.

But she added: "I am confident sooner or later we will win because it is blatantly so unjust." Angela Mason, executive di-

rector of Stonewall, a pressure group for lesbian and gay equality, which is supporting the two women, said of Ms Booth: "She is a professional barrister. She is very eminent in her field and she did a very competent

It could be up to six weeks before the tribunal's decision is announced. One option the tribunal could take is to refer the She said the policy talked of matter to the European Court.



paintings at the company's former base at Sprivers, a National Trust house at Horsmonden, Kent

Girl, 10, found by father's body in ravine

A 10-year-old girl spent 30 hours by her father's body after he plunged into a raging torrent during a walk in a national park on Majorca.

Katia Scallan watched as her 35-year-old father Neil slipped on a path and plunged into the Torrente de Pareis in the park in the mountainous north of the island. As she scrambled down the ravine to her father, her mother. Alex, 34, who was carrying the couple's two-year-old daughter Michaela, walked on unaware of the tragedy unfolding behind her.

Mrs Scallan, of Bishopston,

Bristol, ran to a restaurant in the resort of Calla Millor to raise the alarm after realising that her husband and older daughter were missing. But Spanish police and rescue workers were unable to launch a search immediately because the dark made it too dangerous in the

A local British resident Humphrey Carter said: "It is a great gorge ~ it's a dangerous place, and the police wouldn't want to take risks up there."

mountainous terrain.

The search was finally mounted at first light on Wednesday - and rescuers

found Katia by the body of her in the torrent. Shocked relatives ter were too distressed to say father in the afternoon. Katia, were anxiously waiting news any more to reporters. The who suffered severe shock, was vesterday recovering in hospital in Palma. A Foreign Office spokesman

said: "This is a terribly tragic

accident. Her father apparently fell and she spent the rest of the night with him." The British Consul in Palma was yesterday preparing to fly

Mrs Scallan and her two daughters home. A spokesman for the Span-

ish Civil Guard said it was not yet clear whether Mr Scallan was killed by his fall or drowned were anxiously waiting news any more to reporters. The from Majorca at the Scallan family's home. The blinds were drawn on

terrace house where Mrs Scallan's two distraught sisters were hoping she would telephone them. Younger sister Emma Bevin

every window in the neat end of

sobbed as she told how they had learned of the tragedy only through the newspapers. "We are waiting for Alex to contact us. We have no more

information than is in the

press," she said. She and her sis-

family had been due to return home on Sunday from the twoweek holiday. A neighbour, Helen Jones. who teaches Katia the piano.

said the child had talked excit-

edly of her holiday plans. Ka-

tia had explained that she would have to miss lessons. "She told me how she was looking forward to ber trip. Mrs Jones said.

Another neighbour, Andrew Leggatt, said: "This is really shocking news. They are a love-

EVEN EXOTIC HOLIDAYS 10 BE WON WITH INDEPENDENT

who tries immere h

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KLM

ach day this week The Independent is giv-ing away a fabulous holiday for two. We have teamed up with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. Trailfinders and Four Seasons ◆ Regent Hotels and Resorts, the world's leading houry hotel group. to offer you the chance to win one of seven superb prizes to a variety of worldwide destinations. So far we have given away holidays to Toronto, Bangkok, Bali, Mexico and Los Angeles. Today you could win a holiday for two to Tokyo, Japan.

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0891 161 638 Lines close at midnight tonight. Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times and last less than two minutes. The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries. Normal Newspaper Publishing pic rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.

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The busy Shinjuku District, Tokyo

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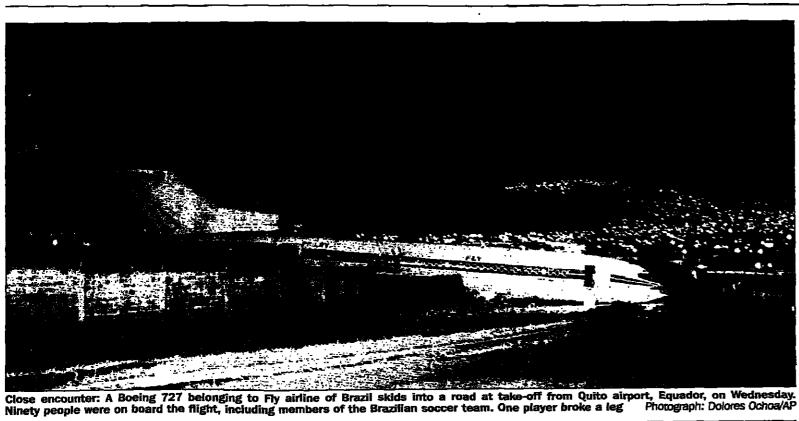
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Nurses face abuse for treating gunman

ROBERT MILLIKEN

As Tasmania was still struggling to face the future after the massacre of 35 people at Port Arthur, tensions mounted yesterday at the Hobart hospital where the man accused of the killings is a patient.

Meanwhile, some marketing consultants have ghoulishly sug-gested that Port Arthur should of last Sunday's siege.

incorporate its description into future tours, along with the sites where convicts were kept in chains and flogged.

Five days after the horror at the island state's main tourist attraction, Martin Bryant, 28, remained under police guard in the Royal Hobart Hospital, being treated for severe burns which he suffered at the climax

plained yesterday that people were abusing them in the streets for continuing to treat a man whom Tasmania's half-million people have collectively branded the personification of evil. The hospital itself has received

threatening telephone calls. Helen Gray, secretary of the Tasmanian nurses' union, said: "All nurses share the frustration tend anyone put under their care. So far, no one has refused treatment to this patient."

The Tasmanian authorities are under strong pressure to move Bryant from the hospital, where some of the 19 people iniured in the shooting spree are undergoing treatment for bullet wounds. Now he has been formally charged with one of the killings, preparations are being

John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, is expected to propose that Australia adopt uniform gun control laws. The New South Wales authorities yesterday agreed to surrender its powers over firearms to Canberra, and called on other states to do the same, although Tasmania's state government said it would not follow suit.

Swiss banks let search begin for lost Jewish cash

RUPERT CORNWELL

In an unprecedented lifting of their country's strict banking se-crecy. Swiss bankers have greed to set up an independent body with "unfettered access" to search for millions - perhaps billions - of unclaimed and untraced dollars allegedly deposited in Switzerland by victims of the Holocaust.

Representatives of the World Jewish Congress, the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, and the Swiss Bankers Association, signed a two-page memorandum of agreement on determining Jewish assets held in Swiss banks in New York yesterday. It provides for a commission with three members appointed by the association and three by the World Jewish Congress (WJC) and other Jewish organisations, whose auditors would have powers to examine every individual account which has lain dor-

mant since the end of the war. The commission will also work with the Swiss government to find out whether accounts at Swiss banks and other financial institutions contain money, bul-

lion or other assets stolen by the Nazis and deposited there for safekeeping before the Allies overran the Third Reich in

Thus, for the time being ends a controversy which last month found its way into the White House and the US Congress, as President Bill Clinton threw his weight behind the efforts of the WJC for full disclosure, and the Senate Banking Committee called a special hearing which virtually accused the association of a deliberate cover-up.

Estimates of how much money is involve vary wildly. A survey by the Swiss banks themselves, made public last Sep-tember, turned up only 775 accounts which had not been touched for half a century, containing \$34m (£22m) and pre-

But that estimate was derided by Jewish leaders here with the WJC president, Edgar Bronfman, claiming the true fig-ure was probably several billions" worth of dollars, gold, paintings and other valuables entrusted to Swiss banks. They insist the meagre sums un-

earthed so far reflect only accounts opened in person by Holocaust victims. Countless others, they argue, were opened by Swiss-based trustees and lawyers on behalf of Jews scattered across Europe whose names did not feature on them.

What indirect evidence there is suggests the sum could far ex-ceed \$34m - a recently declassified US Treasury document from 1945 for instance claims one Swiss bank alone had 182 accounts on its books, mostly from Romanian Jews. Totallin \$2m at the time, these would now be worth \$20m with accrued interest.

The irony is that the Swiss banking secrecy laws were introduced in the 1930s with the intention of attracting money from Jews and others scared by the rise of the Nazis. But these same laws have made it difficult for relatives of victims to recover the assets, as the banks have demanded death certificates and other documents either destroyed or lost because of the War. Jewish organisations have also complained at the £160 fee routinely charged by the banks



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Republicans panic as Dole faces fading fortunes

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

Only a year ago, they ruled Capitol Hill and the White House appeared ripe for the taking. Today Speaker Newt Gingrich is arguably the least loved public figure in Ameri-ca, their Presidential aspirant Bob Dole trails Bill Clinton by more than 20 per cent in the polls, and Republicans contemplate the previously unthinkable - that the Democrats

may well win back Congress. Six months still remain before election Day on November 5, time enough for the economy. Whitewater, or events in landscape; but rarely in history have the fortunes of the two

completely reversed. tually guarantee the party a lock mary season. Mr Dole has no on power for decades. Today the calculation is very different and increasingly desperate: how to prevent the loss of just 19 seats that would hand the House of Representatives back to the Democrats.

For the moment at least. that task looks mighty hard. The problem is a vicious circle which the party shows no sign of breaking: an unpopular Republican Congress, saddled with an image of extremism and intolerance, drags down Mr Dole whose own shortcomings as campaigner and projector of a clear-cut message cast a pallor on the prospects of Republican Congressmen and Senators themselves running for re-election. In voting preferences for the 435 House races, the Republicans now trail Democrats nationally by seven points.

The man in the trickiest po-

sition is Mr Dole. Far from his runaway victory in the primaries serving as a springboard, this stage which has never been

the summer of 1988 before be-

The result has been creeping panic, verging on open rebellion. Emerging briefly from a self-imposed political purdah last week, Mr Gingrich pronounced the party to be "in a the abortion assue again threatments to create turmoil in San Diego.

The bugbear, as in the past, is the traditional clause in the party platform calling for a constitutional ban on abortion.



funk." A recent TV interview by Mr Dole was described by the Republican columnist Bob Novak as the "worst single television interview" by a television candidate in 20 years, reflecting "disorganisation, lack of discipline and failure to articulate a But how is Mr Dole to put

that right? Step down as Senate majority leader, say some. East to redraw the political project a vision for the country. shedding the mantle of dour legislator unable to look beyond major US parties so swiftly and the fine print of a legislative amendment. But that overlooks In the spring of 1995, Republican and Democratic punsay those who want Mr Dole to dits alike were proclaiming a stay put here: For a man who secular change in national pol- is a wretched campaigner, the ities, and a South returning to Senate floor is a better theatre the Republican fold after more - and the exposure is free. Afthan a century, that would vir- ter an especially expensive pri-

WHAT I

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GET



money to spend on campaign-ing and advertising. Meanwhile, as that argument continues, the Kansas Senator

is signally failing to display the it has proved a trapdoor into an opinion poll abyss. According to a CNN/USA Today poll this week, Mr Clinton's lead has widened to 21 points, a gap at stymied and outmanoeuvred sometimes by a Democratic closed in any recent election.
Some sanguine Republicans point to the 19 point advantage which Michael Dukakis briefly enjoyed over George Bush in the summer of 1099 before her.

also tend to party affairs, above ing soundly defeated that No-vember. What they do not mention however is that Mr choice of Vice President, will be Bush was facing one of the his great opportunity to mobilise poorest campaigners of recent times. Alas for Mr Dole, he must face one of the very best. the abortion issue again threat-

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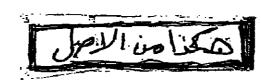
"It was like coming home," behaviour of the school directors breached the 1976 Euro-have to amend legislation.

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PRESIDE

Chirac's year of living dangerously

The French are weighing their President's record, Mary Dejevsky reports from Paris

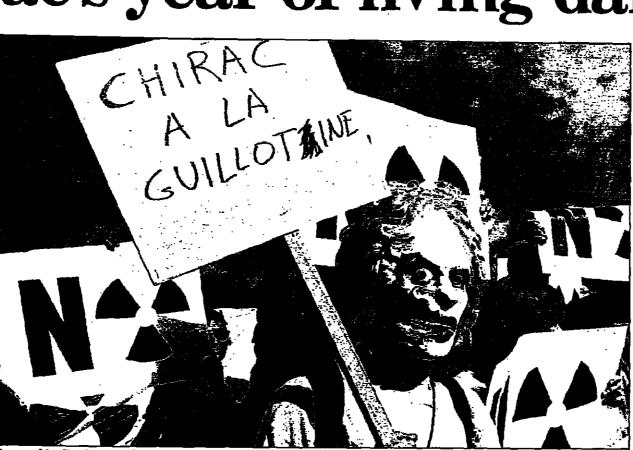
The Elysée is not making a big fuss: Jacques Chirac himself has hardly mentioned the subject, but the first anniversary of his election as President of France is almost upon us, and France's politicians, polisters and commentators are busy drawing up the balance sheet.

Mr Chirac's own Gaullist (RPR) party is feeling reasonably content, if only to be back in power, and is holding a celebratory national council meeting in Paris on Sunday. The Gaullists' coalition partners. the UDF, have just elected a new leader and have troubles enough without worrying unduly about a president with six more years of his term to run. The de facto opposition leader and defeated presidential candidate, Lionel Jospin, snipes from the sidelines about Mr Chirac's broken election promises, but has produced no convincing alternative platform.

On the streets, the view is less divided along party lines and more uniform, but it contains one big and abiding contradiction. One year on, people tend to like Mr Chirac, but they are disappointed with what he has

The polling organisation BVA, for the magazine Paris Match, found that a large ma-jority of those polled (83 per cent) said they found Mr Chirac "dynamic", slightly fewer found him "nice" (76 per cent) and "close to the people" (68 per cent). However, 66 per cent said that on economic and social policy things had gone "worse

These findings mask a bumpy ride for the President. Over the summer and autumn, with the decision taken to conduct a last series of nuclear tests, an Algerian-inspired fundamentalist bombing campaign in progress, and an upsurge of labour unrest in gestation, Mr Chirac's popularityslumped. His recent return above 50 per cent has been a feat, not least hecause his first year has delivered in many instances the precise opposite of what he promised during the election



testing (left) and (below, from left) the Paris bombing and industrial unrest

campaign - and the points on which voters, especially younger voters, are thought to have elected him - were his pledges to reduce unemployment, narrow what were seen as growing social divisions and reduce taxes. He also promised a referendum on education reform.

In fact, unemployment in-creased for 11 months, before registering a very small 4,000 fall in March; high-profile and ex-pensive job-creation schemes are treated with growing public scepticism. And a promised bill to combat "social exclusion" has not materialised.

Taxes have been raised: 2 per cent went on value added tax in August; a special tax of 0.5 per cent on total income was introduced in February to help pay off the social security debt. The bane of employers lives' their contribution to employees' national insurance and health costs - has not been reduced. A promised tax reform was postponed and even though Mr Chirac amended the constitution last summer to make such a reform possible, the referendum on education seems further

Instead, Mr Chirac set about

away than ever.



come a hallmark of his presidency but which has thoroughly divided French opinion.

are international. While the

pated - diplomatic liability, it sent the message that France was back on the international stage, as awkward and Paris-

Mr Chirac's unilateral dé-The priorities of his election cision that may in time be- ing was a huge - and unantici- diers, and on Lebanon after a Schengen agreement on open the Francophone world and to govern.

risked ridicule, eschewed European team-playing and irritated Washington. Probably, though, both moves made a

In Europe, Mr Chirac man-

European borders without being dubbed anti-European. He

Further afield, he worked to

Zulus arrested for royal attack

Durban - Police raided a workers' durmitory controlled by Zuly nationalists to arrest nine men in connection with last week's attack on the Zulu royal family. The arrests came amid rising tension in the Zulu homeland in KwaZulu-Natal province four weeks before scheduled local government elections considered a showdown between the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party and the rival African National Congress.

Muslims indicted

The Hague - Bosnia has arrested two Muslims indicted by the UN criminal tribunal for former Yugoslavia for war crimes against Serbs. A tribunal spokesman identified the two men as Hazim Delic and Esad Landzo who were indicted along with two other suspects for crimes allegedly committed at the Celebici prison camp at Konjie in central Bosnia in

Albanian Exchange

Tirana - The Albanian National Bank yesterday opened a stock exchange, the first in the history of Albania, where the economy is struggling to follow the free-market rules. AP

Mexican drug bust

other traditional areas of

Altogether, Jacques Chirac

emerges from his first year as a very old-fashioned sort of

French president: an embodi-

ment of French interests and

style abroad; an aspiring advo-

cate for "the people" at home.

Silent during the labour un-

rest of the winter, he did not

publicly support the govern-ment's tough line and he kept

channels open to the unions and

strikers. A recent attack on hy-

permarkets as the scourge of

French towns was applauded because all French shoppers imag-

ine themselves patronising small shops - even as they set

Other concerns - like bal-

ancing the budget, meeting the

Maastricht criteria, making the

welfare system solvent - are left

increasingly to the government.

Mr Chirac can then urge from

the sidelines; don't raise taxes,

don't ration healthcare, don't let

small traders go out of business.

that if his own popularity con-

tinues to be bought at the cost

of his government's unpopu-

larity, the right could lose its

parliamentary majority in two

His one looming problem is

off to the hypermarket.

French influence.

Washington -- Federal agents arrested dozens of people around the country the breakup of a coast-to-coast Mexican-Colombian cocaine ring. Codenamed "Zorro II" the operation is the first to arrest Mexican drug couriers and dealers and Colombian traffickers from the country "manager" down to street-level distributors, Drug Enforcement Administration officials said.

CIA director search

Rock Point, Maryland - As the search for former CIA Director William Colby was scaled back, his wife said she believed he was still alive. "Bill survived parachuting into France and Norway to fight the Germans in World War II. He survived two tours of duty in Vietnam and a horrible mugging ... If he survived all that, he can survive tipping over in a canoe." Sally Shelton-

Colby said. Dead and alive

Manila — Mourners at a wake for a murdered Filipina waitress were stunned yesterday when the woman they were grieving



Aside from the decision on conscription, the real achievements of Mr Chirac's first year

centred as ever. marche on Bosnia after the

brought France back into the leading structures of Nato without being condemned for be-

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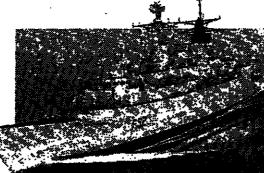
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Fair play keeps polls calm

TIM MCGIRK New Delhi

Maybe it had to do with the orders for Indian police to shoot on sight. Or the "preventive" arrest of 300,000 suspected troublemakers around the country. But the second round of India's general elections passed off yesterday without the customary killings and hired thugs smashing up polling booths.

Heated election contests in the states of Bihar. Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu were expected to spill into violence. Bihar is usually the most troublesome state at election time. The private armies of feudal landlords and revolutionary peasants have carved up this north Indian state along the Ganges river and, until yesterday, the winning candidate was not the man with the best record but he who could muster the biggest firepower.

Indian elections: Millions vote in searing heat and cyclone

were from Bihar. Four died in clashes between rival political gangs, and the other two were would-be bombers who blew themselves up. In Andhra Pradesh, a police officer was killed by a landmine planted by Nazalite revolutionaries who oppose the elections. Officials said that having only seven deaths during this colossal de-mocratic exercise, which cov-ered 17 states and involved 220 million registered voters, was as close to a peaceful election as

they dared to hope for.
The elections went off smoothly not only because of tight security - over 600,000 police and paramilitary forces were deployed for poll duty -but also because India's autocratic chief election commis-Of the seven Indians killed sioner, TN Seshan, has scared ter, Narasimha Rao, is expected manded Mr Rao resign even beduring polling yesterday, six politicians into playing fairly. to lose its majority in the 543-seat fore the next round of polls. His

The politicians know that if they do not, Mr Seshan will disqualify them. He also brought in identity cards for registered voters and cut back sharply on election spending. Under his vigilance, it has been harder for politicians

to rig the vote.

Braving temperatures of more than 38C in some western and northern states and a cycloneforce winds in the east, around 50 to 60 per cent of voters turned out. The third and final round of voting takes place on 7 May, and results will be announced on 10 May. But opinion polls, as well as the astrologers on whom most politicians seem to rely, all predict that India will be stuck with a hung parliament. The ruling Congress party of the Prime Minis-

campaign slogan is "Stability".
But judging from the chaos in
his party and government, many
Indians are beginning to doubt
whether Mr Rao can deliver the Lok Sabha (parliament). If so, Mr Rao, 73, is likely to be ousted as Congress party leader. In the election run-up, Mr Rao has been dogged by bribery

him, and yesterday an arrest

warrant was issued on the

Prime Minister's favourite guru,

A "godman", as the Indian

press calls him, who is better

known for his power-broking

abilities than compassion

Chandraswami is accused of

conspiracy to swindle \$100,000

(£66,500) from an Indian re-

siding in Britain. Most damning

of all for Mr Rao, the magistrate

took a swipe at the Central Bu-

reau of Investigation - which an-

swers directly to the Prime Minister - for "dilly-dallying" in probing the swami's controver-

The main opposition party, the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya

Janata Party, yesterday de-

Chandraswami,

sial activities.

and housing scandals, his par-ty lieutenants rebelled against stability India so urgently needs. fails the fun test

Franz

If anyone is harbouring plans to laugh at the Austrian Chancellor, Franz Vranitzky, then here is a friendly piece of advice: think again. The Chan-cellor likes to be taken seriously and will go to considerable lengths to make sure his dignity is uphekt. In particular, it is important to try not to think of him without any clothes on. Hubertus Czernin, editor in

minerus Czernin, editor in chief of the top Austrian news magazine, Profil, encouraged this little fantasy among his readers recently when he used a picture of the Chancellor's head an approximately and the chancel of the Chancellor's head approximately and the chancel of the Chancellor's head approximately and the chancel of the Chan head superimposed on a naked male body, on the front cover of the March issue. He was portrayed as chubby, hairy, and modest -- he was covering "his" genitals with "his " hands. Now, according to Profil staff, Mr Czernin has been sacked and the Chancellor's office is taking least action. taking legal action.
The caption next to the

photo-montage read: "How [Vice-Chancellor] Wolfgang Schüssel stripped shirt and trousers off Franz Vranitzky." This was a reference to the So-cial Democratic Chancellor's alleged concessions in coalition talks with Mr Schüssel's con-servative People's Party. The sacking triggered an outcry. "The editorial staff of Profil is most vehemently opposed to the firing of Hubertus Cz-ernin," the journalists said in a statement

Mr Czernin has apologised to Mr Vranitzky, but declined to make any public statement

PEOPLE



Vranitzky as he might be if he had a different body

on the reports of his sacking. Somewhat surprisingly, the far-right Freedom Party leader Jörg Haider said he backed Mr Czernin in the controversy. While he did not agree with the editor's political views, Mr Haider said he would do his utmost to ensure that freedom of ession was guaranteed.

They are also struggling with issues of censorship and press freedom in Poland. Nearly half of the staff of a leading newspaper, Zycie Warszawy, said they were resigning this week in protest over a change in policy forced by a new own-

replace the editor-in-chief and to change the paper's profile to make it "objective, neutral and apolitical". According to the journalists, this is code for sub-

missively pro-government. Mr Jakubas is apparently upset by a perceived right-wing tendency in the paper. The journalists fear that Zycie will no longer deal with subjects that make the new tulers feel uncomfortable. The newspaper was attacked by former communists last year after publishing articles about the ruling coalition of the ex-communis Democratic Left Alliance and the Polish Peasants' Party.

"The change of profile of Zycie is part of the offensive of the
ruling coalition against the
Polish media," the journalists
warned, adding that the appointment in mid-April of proPeasant's Party politicien Peasant's Party politician Ryszard Miazek as head of public television was part of a government attempt to gain wider control of the media. Mr Miazek has already announced that public television should serve the government.

Burt Reynolds' financial problems appear to be getting worse. In 1994 his lawyers asked a judge to relieve the actor of an \$11,000 (£7,300) month alimony payment to the actress Loni Anderson, saying he was \$11.8m in debt. Now foreclosure proceedings have been launched against Reynolds, who has allegedly failed to make monthly payments of \$8,500 on his \$2,25m Florida ranch since August last year. Reynolds has been asked to pay \$1.49m, including interest since July, on a \$1.5m loan he took out in May 1994.

James Roberts

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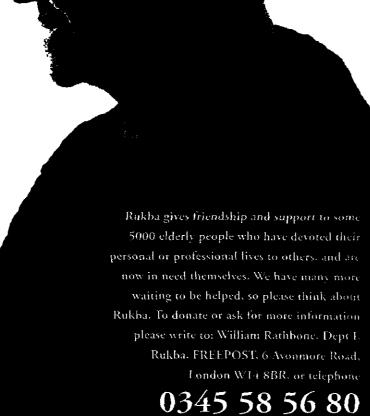
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Mortgages

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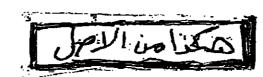
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Poles seek their place at heart of Europe

From the terrace of his presidential palace, Alexander Kwasniewski peers towards the West, and raises a champagne glass to Europe. But what, exactly, is this "Europe" that the new Polish President, a suave former Communist, sees on

Europe will have "new di-rection" once Poland joins, he predicts. "A Europe of nationstates with deep co-operation. he says, in terms vague enough to please John Major and, perhaps, Boris Yeltsin, too. And where would its border finally he? Might Russia one day join the European Union and Nato? For now, that would be going a little too far, he said. But, he said: "You never know. This is the building where the Warsaw Pact treaty was signed." He paused and added: "Anything can happen in politics."

The EU and Nato plan to open their doors to up to 12 eastern European members early in the new millennium. For the former communist countries of eastern Europe, early membership of the two organisations has been viewed as an imperative from the day they broke free of Moscow, In Poland, by far the biggest of the would-be members, "Europe" is viewed as a means to achieve stability; to guarantee Poland's statehood and freedom from Russian influence: and to win a stake in a powerful economic alliance. But what else do Poles see when they look to "Europe" and the EU? And has the country's view to the West been blurred by the rise to power of men who once had paid allegiance to the East?

Polish intellectuals who played a key role in the counThe political élite believes their country will provide the new motor for the EU. writes Sarah Helm in Warsaw

el for the future should be," says

Piotr Nowina-Konooka, a lead-

ing member of the right-wing opposition. "So how can we be

clear about where it is going?"

Progress in the EU's Inter-

Governmental Conference,

which is supposed to strength-en the Brussels institutions ready

to take new members, has been

a slowing down of momentum in the EU. This could be disas-

trous. If Europe does not enlarge and deepen it will disintegrate.

Europe must not become pas-

sive, it must not lose its willing-

In Warsaw there is also a

sense of frustration about Europe's wrangling over issues which to Poles seem irrelevant.

The arguments over issues of

are details. Great Britain might

be worried that the EU means

a loss of sovereignty but for us

it can only mean a growth in sov-

The failure of both the EU

and Nato to give the east Eu-

ropeans a firm deadline for

ining is also causing anxiety.

The fear is that if the EU does

not open its doors soon, the will-

us and majority voting

ness to live and grow in power.

says Mr Konopka.

try's early reforms argue that it is Poland's right to be at the heart of Europe and that right was stripped from it by history. They would have been in at the start if they had had a chance. Once Poland is back where it belongs, they suggest, it will play a central role in European affairs.

give Europe a new direction

To them, it is clear that Europe must be a strong alliance, built on deeply integrated structures. There is talk in Warsaw of forming a new power bloc at the core of Europe, a "Weimar triangle" linking France, Germany and Poland. This political élite appears to believe that the new European "motor", fuelled by Polish energy, might give the EU the new direction it needs.

But this vision is at odds with the EU's own uncertain view of its future and is riddled economy may ebb away.

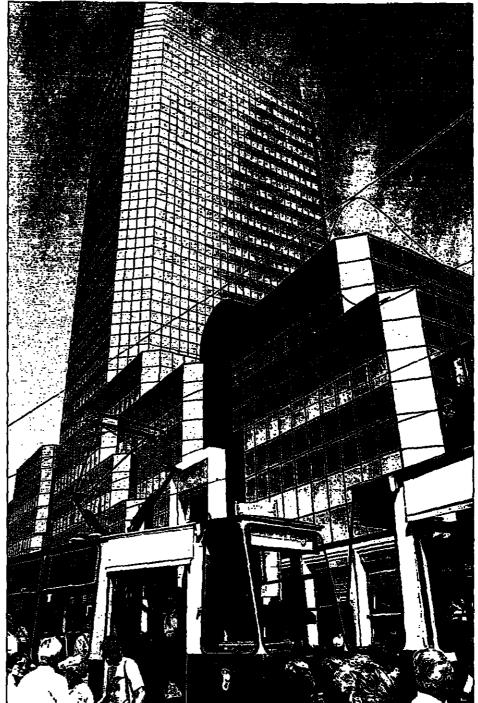
A CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF THE P

It is already evident in some sections of Polish society that not everything "Europe" stands for will be good. There have al-"Europe no longer seems ways been Euro-sceptic eleclear about what its own modments in Poland - in the Catholic Church, for example, and among the farming population, which fears mass unemployment when competition

with the West begins to bite. Privatisation is largely favoured, but questions are asked about the sacrifices. "Solidarity was the first to launch the liberalising programmes," says Marian Krzaklewski, presfollowed with growing frustration in Warsaw. There seems to be ident of Solidarity in Gdansk, where the shipyard faces closure. But you will hear people ask today whether the only way to attract investment is to sell off our best companies. If they are such promising firms. why don't we keep them

Mr Kwasniewski's post-Communist government appears as committed to pushing Poland towards membership of Europe as its predecessor was; it is committed, too, to the required economic and political reforms. The government's future in power is only guaranteed by winning the approval of Western investors.

ereignty," says Jacek Saryusz Wolski, minister for European Adam Michnik, formerly a integration. Ordinary Poles releading figure in Solidarity and now editor of Gazeta Wyborcza, mark that EU countries now seem too worried about "their Poland's biggest selling daily, scoffs at the pro-European pre-tensions voiced in the presidential palace. "They are all old apparaichiks of the old regime. Now they are in favour of the EU because they prefer to voyage to Paris or Bonn than to ingness of Poles to make the sac- Alma Ata or Moscow."



Prosperous Warsaw: The government is committed to economic reforms required for EU membership, but there is anxiety over the lack of a deadline

Yeltsin softens stance on rebels

PHIL REEVES

Boris Yeltsin is planning to see first-hand the small, rebellious Caucasian republic that has done so much damage to his credibility and prospects for re-election. Yesterday he said he planned to go to Chechnya in the middle of the month and was prepared to meet separatist representatives, according to

Interfax news agency.

The visit would be his first since he launched the war by sending in troops in December 1994 and appears to be unother step in efforts to end the conflict before next month's election. His stance appears to mark a softening of tone: he refused to negotiate directly with the rebel leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, who was killed on 21 April. Dudayev's successor, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, said he was ready to talk to Moscow's top leaders, without naming the President.

Whether he would seriously negotiate so soon after talking over the leadership remains doubtful, if only because he would risk being accused by fellow Chechens of betraying Dudayev's cause. He has already demanded several conditions. saying talks should be conditional on withdrawal of Russian troops, and have nothing to do with "propagandist acts in the

pre-election period".

As the two sides maneouvred, hostilities continued. Authorities in neighbouring Dagestan said rebels took seven policemen hostage. In Shali, 30 miles from Grozny, the Russians threatened to attack the town unless 300 separatist fighters lay down their weapons and left. ■ Riga - A report for a Russian think-tank calling for a preemptive strike against the Baltic

states if they got into Nato has

caused alarm, Reuter reports. "In such an event, it is impossible to rule out pre-emptive military action by the Russian Federation armed forces against armed nationalistic units with the aim of decisively cutting short possible practical steps towards carrying out the implementation of the mentioned provocative plans.

Barbie's invasion of Russia faces stand from a doll with 'soul'

PHIL REEVES

The West has never been in any doubt about their dislike of Nato expansion, or foreign debt, or international criticism of their clapped-out nuclear power stations. But the Rustheir old Cold War foes is of a

sensitivities have been offended by a small, blonde, plastic. and utterly Western creation -

the Barbie doll. reading Good Housekeeping,

But the esteem in which the na- warm-hearted Russian doll who sandwich or a working lavato- panel of designers, toy-makers just too much to bear.

At least, it is for Slava Zait-Russian traditionalists may sev, 58, one of the country's lar in Russia is not at issue. You have grown used to seeing their leading fashion designers. He only have to poke your head in compatriots queuing by the has accused the doll of being hundreds to eat a Big Mac, or "absolutely cold, scrawny, cyn-"absolutely cold, scrawny, cyndriving around Moscow's ical and pragmatic". He also

tion's small girls hold Barbie is has that most elusive of Slavic properties: "soul".

That Barbie is hugely poputhe Moscow's huge children's store "Detski Mir" to find Barbie in scuba gear, Barbie at the al (though not sexy). And he on sale everywhere. You may

Barbie, in all her cosmetic glory, is certain to be there. So, for that matter, are Ken and Sindy. To find a prototype for his rival doll. Mr Zaitsev - designer of the forbidding black robes worn by Russia's senior judges d a competition among

15,000 girls called "Goodbye

ry at many Russian amports. But and artists selected three angelic-looking children, aged be-Vika and Anna.

tween eight and six: Katya, Exactly what the finished product will look like remains to be seen, but if Mr Zaitsev's prescription for a good doll is any guide, it will be more

"babushka" than babe, more

our Russia dolls with a Russian soul," he told the Moskovsky Komsomolets newspaper. "... it must be chubby and cuddly."

time to think of the creation of

The fashion designer has dreamt up some headlinecatching stunts to sell his new toy, such as using two giant balloons to spirit Barbie away from Russian soil. Patriots will, the report was quoted as saying. Barbie. Hello Marusia!". A mother than moron. "It is high no doubt, applaud.

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Olive Tree to prune Berlusconi's empire

ANDREW GUMBEL

Italy's new centre-left government intends to introduce legislation within the next three months that would force the former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi to sell one of his three private television networks amid a drastic reorganisation of the public broad-

Walter Veltroni, the deputy leader of the winning Olive Tree coalition, who is tipped to take a leading role in the broadcasting reforms, told the Independent that the new gov-ernment, expected to take office in the next three weeks, wanted to settle the media ownership issue by the summer holidays.

Both Mr Berlusconi's Fininvest empire and the Rai state broadcasting service would be terfere with Mr Berlusconi's cut back from three network channels to two: tenders would

be put out to new private investors and rules would be drawn up to encourage and regulate cable and satellite pro-

more than two channels," Mr Veltroni said.
-That is what the Constitutional Court has decreed in a

Nobody will be allowed

ruling which must be respected by August at the latest, and that is what Fininvest and I decided in the agreement we worked The move is likely to be

fiercely contested by Mr Berlus-coni, who has battled to keep control of his media empire despite his entry into politics and who felt vindicated when he won a series of referendums on media ownership last summer. A radical reorganisation of Italian broadcasting could in-

plans to float his media interests on the Milan stock ex-

change by the end of June. Since the referendums Mr Berlusconi has regrouped his media companies into a new company called Mediaset and has sold roughly 30 per cent to Italian banks and foreign investors.

The chairman of Mr Berlusconi's business empire, Fedele Confalonieri, said earlier this week that he had been assured by the country's leaders that "our firms will not be dismantled", and that the company was a national asset.

But this not a view shared by many financial analysts, who argue that the creation of et and the ensuing share sell-offs have merely enabled Mr Berlusconi to attract new capital without relinquishing overall control.

Mr Veltroni was confident the new legislation would pass without excessive protest from Mr Berlusconi, who is now leader

ruling would have forced him to lose one channel anyway. It's in his interests to find a solution," Mr Veltroni szid.

We have no intention of starting a witch-hunt or provoking confrontations." The new government also hopes that Rai, whose programme output has come to

resemble Mr Berlusconi's blend of cheesy game-shows, films and imported serials, will return to its original role as a genuine Mr Veltroni said be hoped the new board of management at Rai, which must be approved by

the new parliament, would re-

introduce educational and cultural programmes which had been slowly squeezed out over the past 10 years. "We want to take the politics out of programming and create



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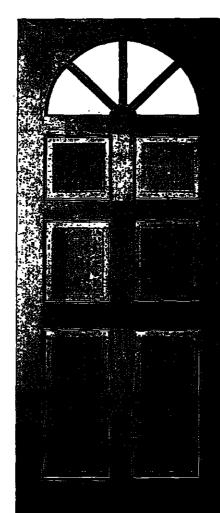
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European arm^{*} of Nato seeks a wider reach

Defence Correspondent

The Western European Union - the European arm of Nato wants to be able to "mount and control peacekeeping, humanitarian aid and crisis manage-ment" by the end of the year, Foreign Office officials said yesterday.

Foreign and defence ministers from the 10 full members of the WEU and 17 other European countries will meet at Birmingham's International Convention Centre next week. But although the end of the year coincides with the end of the current mandate for the Natoled peace implementation force (I-For) in Bosnia, officials said there was absolutely no way the WEU could take on an operation of that magnitude - or even a smaller "post I-For" operation

The meeting will hear how, under the British presidency, the WEU has taken "concrete steps" towards being able to conduct operations at the lower levels of conflict.

Diplomatic sources yesterday said this part of the spectrum was ill-defined but believed than those seen so far - for example, the naval blockade in the Adriatic - but still well short of a big military operation like I-For, which involves 60,000

The "concrete steps" so far include a security agreement be-tween WEU and Nato which will make it possible for classi-fied information to pass between the headquarters of the two organisations. This is seen as vital to enable the WEU to use Nato forces.

A situation centre has been set up at the WEU headquarters in Brussels to control and monitor operations. Sources yesterday said the technology for command, control and com munications would all be in place by the end of the year. There has also been an agrecment on "strategic airlift" known as Eurolift, to ensure the WEU can get forces to where

It's the kind of thing that has to be got right if the vision we have of European defence policy is to be realised." a Foreign Office official said.

There may well be tasks in the field of peacekeeping, crisis management and huminatarian operations which are not appropriate for Nato. They will be European but the assets will be drawn from Nato."

The WEU can draw on Nato communications and resources, but without fully involving the duct operations more ambitious Atlantic Alliance. The main means of doing this is to be the Combined Joint Task Force concept. Nato nations are expected to finalise the details of CJTS at the Nato summit in Berlin on 3 June.

Mongolian fires worsen

IRIA HALASZ

Ulan Bator - Mongolian school-boys joined thousands of soldiers to battle fires whipped up across the steppes by high winds yesterday as one injured teenage firefighter fought for his life in

an Ulan Bator hospital. This afternoon the winds have been so strong that the fire is spreading in all directions extremely fast," army spokesman Damdinsuren said. "The winds have whipped up such a fierce blaze that the firefighters can do nothing more than try to pro-tect camps and cattle," he said. The remains of three fire-

fighters had been found in the region's Erdenemandal county, lying near their horses, he said.
"Only ashes were left."

Scores of fires have roared across Mongolia's steppes, 250 to 300 miles from the capital, in the past three weeks. The latest deaths raised the toll to 19, with 60 injured. The fires have left 700 people homeless and destroyed about 30,000 square miles of forests and pastureland. About 6,000 cattle, the lifeline of Mongolia's nomadic herders, have been killed.

A total of 5,800 people were trying to hold back seven fires 🦸 and all the oldest schoolboys had been deployed to join soldiers and locals in combating the blazes, Damdinsuren said. Firefighter Batmoenkh, 16.

lay in hospital fighting for life after suffering 90 per cent burns as he battled a huge blaze in Batsumber county, about 40 miles north of the capital.



acceptance and surgery.

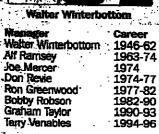
Court of Justice found time -"It was like coming home," behaviour of the school directors breached the 1976 Euro-have to amend legislation.

that the Government would

liking the direct Ame in Const

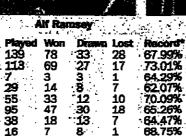
The record Hoddle has to beat: how England managers compare

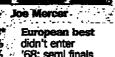






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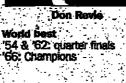


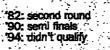


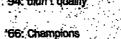
'68: semi finals '76: didn't qualify '80: first round '88: first round '92: first round

'68: third overall











1966 World Cup Final victory, knighthood followed

Dignified, thoughtful, team played good football Got to the 1990 World Cup semi-finals

Quality coach, insisted on skills training

Difficult to identify one really

Great coach, respected by players







Team selections submitted to committee Lost to US. Disastrous World Cup record Raised expectations. Settled after failed to make the 1974 World Cup. Lust a caretaker had little impact.

Fury at his signing contract to manage Avab Emirates

Truy of the agent of the World Cup and European chempionships
Three straight defeats in 1988 Euro-chempionships
Three straight defeats in 1988 Euro-chempionships
Thy-on-viall documentary exposed his mediocity
String of legal actions against him over business deals

*Record based on win=2 points, draw=1 point, loss=0 points. The manager's record equals total points as a percentage of highest possible total points.

66.99%

Ben Summers and Claire Afree

v a little prayer

Jim White offers Glenn Hoddle a crash course on the worst job in English football

... and wear, while pacing the touchline, a tracksuit apparently several sizes too small for you. The way the garish nylon fabric of The Turnip's outfit failed to disguise his ill-disciplined contours was an irresistible metaphor for England under his tutelage: a nation brought low by inadequate tailoring. As a role model for Hoddle, Taylor offers so many lessons. He can learn all he needs to know about his new job by studying whatever Taylor did and doing the opposite.

Taylor was so far out of his deoth he needed an aqualung. It was a tale of comi-tragic humiliation, punctuated by pat philosophising and inarticulate rages. "For the record," announced a Channel 4 press notice about The Impossible Job, a fly-onthe-wall documentary record of Taylor's reign, "in the film Mr Taylor utter 38 fucks, three craps, two shits and there is an obscured wanker." Not that Hoddle would ever contemplate allowing flys anywhere near his wall. Contemptuous at best in his dealings with the media, the new England manager is capable of freezing a reporter's note book at 40 paces. Cosy chats and indiscreet briefings are not his way, the media

will be kept at arm's length. 2. Do What Bobby Robson Did... ... and allow senior players in on Chelsea, has already proved prepared to listen. Though whether he will ever go as far as Robson in the 1990 World Cup and delegate responsibility for team tactics to his players is unlikely. During that tournament, Robson, dewy-eyed and emotional as always, allowed himself to be persuaded by a clique of senior players that they needed a sweeper system. He let them get on with it and hey presto, get on with it they did, to the semi-final. If only one of the lads had suggested some penalty-taking practice

1. Dou't Do What Graham Taylor
Did... 3. Don't Do What Don Revie Did...
... and treat the players like children. Revie, also known as Don Readies for his partiality to a filled brown envelope, believed the England setup should be one big happy family, a unit in which he cast himself as the father figure. The temptations fac-ing English footballers are many, making them indulge in carpet bowls, bingo and quiz nights is unlikely to help their preparation. International players do not need to be treated as if they have only recently graduated from nappies. Unless they are Paul Gascoigne.
4. Do What Joe Mercer Did...

... and make them play with a smile on their faces. He was only manager for a couple of months, in the interregnum between Alf Ramsey and Don Revie, but the former Man- your hair. chester City manager transformed England. "Go out and enjoy yourselves," was the extent of his team talks. The nervous, cowed remnants of the team that had fallen to the clown-like Poles in World Cup qualification suddenly started to look world-beaters, stroking the ball around with abandon. Mind you, it was only against Wales. 5. Dou't Do What Ron Greenwood

and Bobby Robson Did... ... and play their best player out of position. For 10 years England possessed a midfield playmaker capable tactics. Hoddle, in his shrewd cor-ralling of Ruud Gullit's nous at skill would have stopped the traffic in Rio. Greenwood and Robson squandered his talent. In the 53 games he played for England, just once was he used in the role he had at his club, that of a floating, Bondlike. go-anywhere assassin. His name: Glenn Hoddle.

6. Do What Terry Venables Did... ... and stick with your team. Don't be swayed by the press. Given the unaccustomed luxury of not having to qualify for a tournament, Venables has spent the lead up to Euro 96 wisely. Spurning the pundits who suggest English players are too stupid to trial by bad pun: "Desert Venables has developed a Prat" Robson was called

system far more likely to work in international football than the upand-at-'em rush favoured by, for instance, Graham Taylor. Just a shame Matt Le Tissier was never one

of his favourites. 7. Don't Do What Terry Venables

ing English footballers are many, ... and indulge in a bit of business various and seldom resisted, but on the side, fall out with your old club chairman and spend more time in the dock than the QE2. Don't make your mates in the press members of your night club, and then forget to tell the bloke from the Mirror he's invited too. Don't pick agent Eric Hall's clients in your squad, move from the BBC and Des Lynam to ITV and Bob Wilson, appear as the butt of a Walker's crisps commercial, and wear a pepper-and-salt coat that blends seamlessly with

> And never ever allow the records you cut as an impressionable young wannabe pop singer to be re-released. Hoddle is on even more dodgy ground here than his predecessor. While Venables's re-issued crime was a minor one - "My Way sung in Catalan - Hoddle has a iangling skeleton in his cupboard: "Dia-mond Lights", his sub-Spandau Ballet hit recorded with Chris Waddle. Please, Glenn, let it rest in peace. 8. Don't Do What Alf Ramsey, Graham Taylor and Don Revie Did...

Don Revie was vilified for running away to the desert. Bobby Robson for his philandering, Terry Venables for his financial dealings and Graham Taylor for being Graham Taylor. But the worst abuse they have suffered is after failure. when they are subjected to

and fail to qualify for the World Cup. Nothing encourages the critics like failure. Part of the job as England manager is contending with some of the most vitriolic abuse known to man.

after a draw with Saudi Arabia; the World Cup. Nothing silences the "Swedes 2 Turnips 1" was the head-critics like victory. critics like victory. line after Taylor's England were 10. Do What You Always Do ... defeated by Sweden; "Yanks 2 Planks ... and pray. O" after failure against the Americans. As a nation we still fondly believe we England you will need should be involved at the highest all the help you level; we cannot tolerate being left out of the World Cup. The stinging pain of sitting at home during a major tournament, with the television commentators assuming we want to cheer on Scotland or, worse, Ireland, the awful humiliation of seeing Costa Rica qualify ahead of us, is not something the average newspaper headline writer forgets in a hurry. 9. Do What

Taking the dawg's name in vain Politics, desertion, muckraking, and

now courtroom drama - it may be a dog's life, but for the late President Mitterrand's black labrador, Baltique (below), it's never dull. This morning. France's favourite pooch finds herself back in the news – at the centre of a Parisian courtroom row,

billed "Baltique vs

Baltique". Having tugged at French heart-strings when she followed her master's coffin from the church to the cemetery in January, Baltique was then very publically dumped by Mitterrand's widow

Now, the poor dog is caught in a tussie between two publishers - each of which has published a book of salacious pseudoreminiscences about the president's private life. Both books bear a picture

of the cuddly hound on the cover - and both purport to be written by in a fit of pique, the first publisher to peach Baltique's pawprint then announced it was suing the second claiming copyright on the pseudonym. The case was due in court this morning - but a frantic 11th-hour negotiated settlement looks like keep-

ing both books out of court, and still Really, a dog can only take so much. The very suggestion that Baltique - man's best friend, after all - would sell her master's most intimate secrets to some grubby publisher is insult

enough. But then to have the publisher claim rights to ber name, when they had taken it in vain anyway! Baltique,

I am told, is most distressed. I think

You're fired. Whoops, no you're not

The new editor Will Hutton may prove to be the golden boy to save the Observer's fortunes - but he's certainly going about it a funny way. One of his very first senior appointments, the managing editor, Danny John, has already distinguished himself by sacking several staff—then having to reinstate them promptly, in a farcical case of mistaken identities.

One respected features writer was startled to be called in by Mr John this week, told that, frankly, the boss "didn't rate him", and shown the door. Drowning his shocked sorrows in the local pub,

Don't fret Tara, all the club's coming too

away in Cannes." Oh, obvionsty. Such selflessness!

Anything they can do, we Cannes do too

Proof, if one were needed, that the British film industry is back on its feel: we have finally mastered the gluttonous art of the full on, Hollywood-inspired beano. This morning, the flawlessly fashionable Soho House, private watering hole for London's movie movers and shakers such as Ewan

McGregor and Era Fitzgerald (above), is packing up and shipping out to Cannes. For the duration of the film festival, owners, staff and members will

enjoy the full benefits of their favourite club, relocated on a chartered motor

yacht. "We thought," explains the manager, Matthew Hooberman, "we really shouldn't deny our members their usual service, just because they are

he was even more startled when a ism have already crumbled. This wee blushing representative of the Guardian's editor burst in, hauled him

out and marched him back to the office. There's been a bit of a cock-up, old boy," blustered the red-faced editor, cracking open the mini-bar. "Bit of a nisunderstanding. So sorry – you're not fired at all." Good news for the hack in question - but not, of course, much reassurance for all the other staff now panicking that the axe was meant for them.

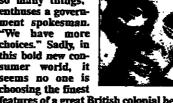
Is nothing sacred?

Chris Patten (right) may still be at the helm, and Hong Kong may not be due to return to the Chinese until next year. But I learn, with great sadness, that the last great bastions of British colonial

a de green en de la grande de desira

the list of goods and services by which the colony measures its inflation rate was published. It is an enlightening litany, and reveals much about Hong Kong's growing cos-mopolitan lifestyle.

"We have access to so many things," enthuses a governwent spokesman. We bave more es." Sadly, in this bold new consumer world, it seems no one is



features of a great British colonial be itage. Some 42 essential items no longer feature on the list – and they include gin shrimp paste and ox tongue.

Railtrack, we love you

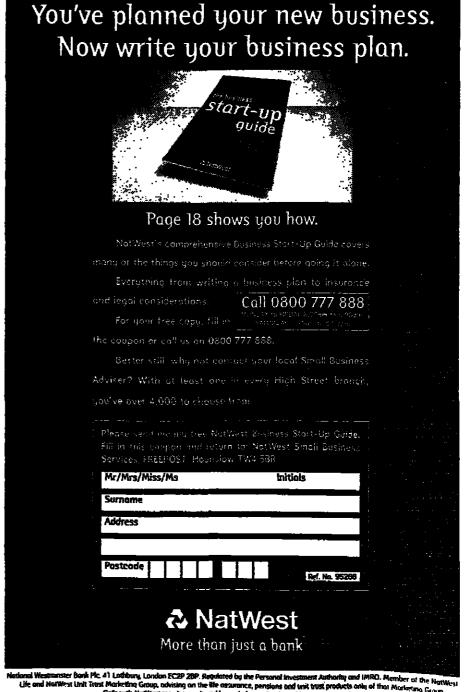
Railtrack staff must be terribly forgetful. How else can one explain the terse memo to employees in East Anglia, issued in response to Wednesday's less than flattering Channel 4 Dispatches portrayal?

"It is never pleasant to be pilloried in this way," huffs the memo, "but you know that we are a professional organisation of highly trained staff compe-tently controlling the railway. It is worth remembering that." Of course it is. Next time I am stranded for hours in a great Railtrack cock-up, that's precisely I'm sure - what I'll remember.

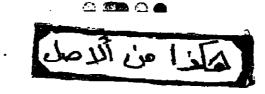
Island life

As bad luck, bad taste and bad timing go, a full-page travel ad in one of the colour supplements last Sunday took some beating. Under the headline "Tasmaniacs", it read: "This treasure island has far more to offer than the notorious Tasmanian Devil Shame really it's all most people associate with the place."

Eagle Eye



20



NDEPENDENT

ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000/0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435/0171-345 2435

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Mr Howard is playing with fire

t hardly even counts as news: "Courts overrule Howard - again." We have heard this story so many times before. Rarely a month passes without Michael Howard the Home Secretary being found by the judiciary to have abused his powers. In March the immigration board told him he couldn't exile the Saudi dissident Al-Mass'ari to Dominica. In February, the European Court of Human Rights said independent review boards – and not the Home Secretary - should decide whether a young killer is safe to be released once his minimum sentence has been served. In September he was found guilty of injustice over parole applications by IRA prisoners. The list goes on and on.

Yet even in this long list Mr Howard's clash with the judges over the sentences for the killer of little James Bulger was bound to be special. The High Court ruled yesterday that the Home Secretary was wrong to set a minimum sentence of 15 years for the two children convicted of

murdering James three years ago.
It isn't hard to see how an injustice could be done. Richard Thompson and Jon Venables were only 10 years old when they killed the two-year-old James. The trial judge detained them "at Her Majesty's pleasure" and recommended that they serve at least eight years. The Lord Chief Justice bid the minimum sentence up to 10 years. Higher, higher, hollered the crowd; 300,000 people signed a petition and 20,000 Sun readers sent the Home Secretary coupons demanding longer sentences for the boys. Ever ready to please his public, Mr Howard settled on 15.

When politicians get their hands on cases that hit the headlines, it is hard for justice to be done. However, the judges are not - yet - arguing that the Home Secretary should mind his own business entirely. Last December they upheld his right to set minimum sentences for adults who are convicted of murder.

The injustice for the Bulger boys, according to the High Court, was not so much that a politician had intervened, it was the fact that he had treated them as adults rather than children. Until now children and teenagers who kill - like convicted adult murderers - bave been given recommended minimum sentences. But children who kill should have their cases continually reviewed as their personalities develop and mature - something which was inconsistent with a 15-year minimum sentence. Fifteen years constitutes about a quarter of a typical adult life. But it is an entire childhood.

Mr Howard responded to the ruling yesterday by summoning the will of Parliament, as well as the passions of the public, to his defence. He was, he claimed, simply using the powers Parliament had given him, just as Home Secretaries had in 400 other cases since 1983. Perhaps. But the broadest and most unreasonable powers may go unchallenged until they are abused. The Home Secretary seems to enjoy deliberately provoking liberal opinion and playing games with justice for political ends. Such an approach might work in the short-run but in the long run it will only further tarnish the Tories' damaged

Whose genes are we exploiting?

Twins are becoming big business. They are being studied by economists who are trying to work out how much influence education has upon employment prospects. Psychologists find them indispensable in the study of mental disorders such as schizophrenia. But where they are most useful and most lucrative is in the rapidly expanding industry of genetics.

The genes of identical twins are the

resource base for the most effective studies designed to isolate nature from nurture. genetic influences from environmental factors. Yesterday more than a thousand twins gathered for a party hosted by docrange of chronic diseases. The researchers are aiming for 5,000 participants. This could be a hugely valuable data bank.

Identical twins share 100 per cent of their genes. If they live apart it should be possible to work out whether any illnesses they suffer are the result of their lifestyles or their genetic inheritance. This in turn should help to develop cures.

The savings to the health service could be huge. Already researchers at St Thomas's hospital in London have identified genetic factors which might make women's bones more brittle in middle age, a condition known as osteoporosis. Two million people in the UK, 80 per cent of them women, suffer from osteoporosis. One in three women and one in 12 men have a fracture by the age of 70. The annual cost of the disease to the health service is estimated at £750m.

The St Thomas's team wants to move on to study obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure and asthma. So the potential health benefits of this data bank may be vast. But so too might be the profits of the genet-

Many people have expressed interest in the discovery by my

friend "Cocker" Leakey, the working-

class anthropologist, that children in

today's playgrounds are writing nurs-

ery rhymes with a political slant.

They have asked me to ask him if

there were any more where the last

reclined over a pint of foaming best

ale in the palaeontology pub, the Skull

and Trowel. "I should say so. As much

as you like. I mean, I showed you my

Jeffrey Archer stuff last time, but

there's just as much about Michael

He pulled this out of a pocket full

And that's how prison fails!
"Like it?" said Cocker. "Here's

Michael Howard went to court

For making laws he didn't ought

Michael Howard, the judges said,

Should stand in the corner and hang

Michael Howard shouted: "Fat

I will lead you a merry dance!

Howard. Try this one for starters."

"More?" said Cocker, as we

lot came from. So I did.

of scraps of paper.
Michael Howard

his head

Coward, coward,

But figures for crime

Went up all the time

Built lots and lots of jails

ics companies which exploit the research. The rights to one gene that is thought to influence obesity were sold last year for \$70m. The value of the St Thomas's data bank could run to hundreds of millions of pounds. The rights to exploit the data bank have been sold to a company called Gemini International, whose headquarters are in the British Virgin Islands. To free-marketeers, the exploitation of

such a gene data bank might not pose any troubling questions. Private-sector companies are taking a risk by investing in the research; they should reap the rewards. But this research is not quite like other maceuticals research. Human beings are not just being used to test drugs; their living matter is being developed to help drugs. The ownership of the treatments developed by genetic research is hugely controversial.

But this is no simple story of privatesector exploitation, far from it. The St Thomas's team turned to private investment because they had to; public-sector grants had dried up. Several leading geneticists have left Britain in the past year because there is not enough money to fund their research; private finance is the only way to get their results into the

international marketplace. The issue of who owns the rights to genetic discoveries will not go away; it will become more pressing. A review of British legislation would be helpful but only up to a point: this is an international issue. Rulings by the International Court of Jus-tice, the European Patent Convention or indeed the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade are needed to help clear it up before the "gene prospectors" give the

MILES KINGTON

So the men in the white coats took him away.
"Are all the rhymes about the Gov-

ernment?" I asked him. "Nothing

"Not that many," said Cocker, "but I've found a few. Here's one modelled

Out walking with her daughter Said Harriet Harman to the burman

"Give her a glass of water!"
"Of course", said he,

Tap water from the mains?

Distilled from Scottish rains?"

Must always come from the tap.

C3115 i

mething more dear

Prison works! I'm God! Ole!"

about new Labour?"

on Simple Simon....

Hamiet Harman

'And will it be

Or would you prefer

Said she, "Oh no,

If I should dare

My H₂0

'Major had a little Hogg', and other verse



• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

killed, butchered and frozen in a

processsing plant near Mecca, and for the meat to be sent to

poor countries. The logical next

step will be for the pilgrims'

money to be used to pay for food

aid to these same countries. That

would put an end to the suffer-ing of hundreds of thousands of

Australasian sheep currently transported across the Indian

Ocean each year to die in Arabia.

Now that the pilgrims in Mecca no longer sacrifice sheep

with their own hands, it seems

only a matter of time before

Muslims elsewhere cease to be

Sir. John Mole (Letters, I May) is right in so far as the ritual

slaughter of sheep referred to has

its basis in a barbarous Old Tes-

tament episode with implications

for three religions, not just Islam.

such slaughter can be justified for

religious purposes. The Buddha condemned all blood sacrifice

outright millennia ago, but it seems that the so-called "reli-

gions of the Book" are still in the

Sir: My family goes back to Domesday Book; I just don't

know their names. The ground on

which they grew up, underneath

the 1930s council estate, does too.

are no more a repository of Eng-

lishness than any other acre in the

country. Medieval peasants also

Dark Ages in such matters.

Domesday life

on the estates

port was nearby.

What he fails to ask is how any

P J STEWART

D W EVANS

expected to do so.

No justification for sheep slaughter

dards of slaughtering" than those described in your article.

blatant and cruel defiance of EU

animal welfare legislation, what

confidence can any thinking per-

son have in the sham welfare reg-

ulations in the EU or the claims

of this government to take animal

Live exports should be banned,

and strenuous and committed

efforts be made to ensure that all

sentient beings are treated with

the humanity they deserve.

Dr Amanda Vance

Sir: There is little theological jus-

tification for Muslims all over the

world to sacrifice sheep at the time of the haj in Mecca (report,

29 April). The Holy Koran only

says: "Accomplish the Pilgrimage

... but if you are hindered then

(2:196). When the Prophet of

Islam made the sacrifice in Med-

ina, it was because he was physi-

cally prevented by his enemies

from making the Pilgrimage.
Some time ago, the Saudi Ara-

bian government stopped pil-

make whatever offering is easy...

West Chiltington, West Sussex

welfare issues seriously?

When we see evidence of such

Sir: Paul Field's excellent article (29 April) on the disgusting treatment of sheep in the French ritual slaughter last weekend revealed horrors that should have no place in a civilised society. In June 1995, I wrote to the Minister of Agriculture about last year's almost identical slaughter. The reply I received from the Ministry of Agriculture was predictably complacent:

The French authorities have told us that special arrangements were made for field slaughter, under veterinary supervision, to meet the demands of the Muslim community. The French authorities work closely with Muslim organisations and welfare organisations throughout the year to improve standards of slaughtering and to control this activity. ... Provided that proper welfare standards are in place, there is no reason why animals should not be transported to France ... The Minister does not think that there has been any suggestion that the sheep's welfare has been adversely affected during their journey to France.

It is hard to relate the scenes in the "killing fields" to "proper grims from making their own welfare standards", just as it is

sacrifice. Instead they now give money to pay for sh

A statesman lost to Ireland

Sir: The customary marches commemorating the Easter Rising and those that died afterwards have just taken place. It is time that justice was done to the memory of another Irish patriot, one who fought in the Rising but lived to become the most successful guerrilla leader Ireland has ever had, in

the fight with the Black and Tans. Michael Collins was as passionate for Irish independence as Patrick Pearse and the rest, but he had the vision to see that the goal might be reached in stages. and the courage to act accordingly. When commanding the army of the Irish Free State he was shot down on 22 August

To go private, then Blair
Would surely give me a slap!"
"Actually," said Cocker, "I think
nursery rhymes are like satire – it's

always a damn sight easier to write about people in office. But this one's

Johnny, Johnny Prescott Said, "Oh, look at me!

Then the middle classes

Said to him: "You what?

I've gone middle class now

— I've joined the bourgeoisie!"

You may think you're middle class

But you're bloody not!"
"Funny thing is, "said Cocker, as he signalled to the barman for

another round, "Major and Blair are

both so colourless that you don't find

many rhymes about either. I've actu-

ally found more about Cherie than

Tony Blair. Cherie, Cherie, Quite

contrary, Which way will you vote? Militant? Old Socialist? Or won't

"You don't go to nursery rhymes

for greatness, my old élitist mate," said Cocker. "You go for immediacy.

you rock the boat?"

"Not great," I said.

Major had a little Hogg

For unanimity. Whatever Mr Major said,

The Hogg said, "I agree!" Mr Major kept his Hogg

rades who rejected the treaty he had signed.

It is arguable that the leaders of the Easter Rising, gallant though they were, actually made partition inevitable, at any rate in the short term, by seeking German help during the First World War. It was a tragedy for Ireland that Collins, with his remarkable gifts of leadership, organisational ability, and capacity for friendship even with an adversary, was deprived of the chance to show himself as great a statesman as he was a fighting man.

CAROL PLACKETT Newcastle upon Tyne

Clean and free from fleas Said Mr Major, "You mustn's catch

So when the people saw the Hogg Out of the bathtub climb,

They showed out, with one accord,

"Look out! It's Hoggwash time!"
"I quite like that one," said Cocker.

But not as much as this one....

Michael Michael

Said, "One day

Waited around

For ages and ages

This will all be mine!

Then said: "Well, maybe

"Are all these rhymes about the famous people?" I asked,

Julian Critchley somewhere. Yes,

ere 11 15....

Julian Critchley loved to joke
So he wasn't Margaret's sort of bloke
Julian Critchley was never a peer

Major thought it a bad idea. Julian Critchley was like you and me.

So why did he ever become an MP?

"That's enough to be going on with," I said, but as I left I distinctly

Her name wasn't Bumley?"

"Not necessarily. I've got one about

It will all be Major's."

Heseltine

here it is...

Any mad Hogg disease!"

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone mumber. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

London: a medieval city state

Sir: The row between English Heritage and the Friends of Kento the magnificent Iveagh Bequest art collection, something of international worth, raises issues that ought not to be

local government in the past decade and the unaccountability of some quangos, which, much as they may wish to respond to local feelings, have inevitably to obey the financial imperatives of Whitehall and reduce facilities and services. In the case of Kendon houses, this directly follows the abolition of the GLC, which, for all its faults, was a democra-

We currently have other controversies into which Londoners ought to have a positive input, not just a negative protest. One, for example, is CrossRail, something

Fayed's populism strikes a chord

a political party does the Independent little credit. Mr Fayed's platform may well be populist, but it coincides with the wishes of large numbers of the population in seeking a Bill of Rights, a Freedom of Information Act, Abolition of the House of Lords, an elected second chamber, devolution for Scotland and Wales, and renatio-

Perhaps we, too, would make more of it if London's third air-I am sure that Andrew Brown's allegation that Mr Fayed will soon "realise the entire establishment Churlish then to observe that Anna Brook has it wrong (29 is ganging up on you" is meant to April) when she reports the be ironical. Sad to say, it is also threat to four Essex Domesday probably true. What is equally true is Mr Fayed's alleged discovery of a "society where the Government villages. There are no villages in Domesday Book, merely estates. That is why Takeley is listed not once but four times: four estates can roll over people and situations where they can conceal and distort

Perhaps if the three main parties made a similar commitment to a set of principles that might at last see this country begin to become a democracy they might command some of the respect that they have clearly lost in the

PHILIP MORGAN History Department Keele University

Naked humour

will do better.

Sir: Nicholas Williams, in his review (30 April) of the concert by the Sudwestfunk Symphony Orchestra Baden-Baden, com-mented on the lack of "a touch of humour" in the woodwind

Apart from the name of the orchestra itself, surely this was provided by their playing in the nude. How else could they have offered "a naturist's challenge to the blended mode of tone pro-duction" in the "long preludal strophe of the concerto's slow movement"?

MICHAEL TEARLE Cardiff

Hebron massacre

Sir: May I correct Abdul Rashid's letter (1 May)? The American-Jewish doctor committed his murders in Hebron mosque, not Jerusalem, and the number of those killed was 29. He now has a large memorial to his exploits

FRED CANTER Uckfield. East Sussex

of vast importance, which has

wood over the future care given ignored. One is the centralisation of

wood and the other historic Lontically elected authority involved in London's strategic future.

Sir. Andrew Brown's sneering artinalisation of the utilities.

in the territory called Takeley. the truth". The modern nucleated villages

appealed to the state on the basis of their Domesday status, but they always lost. Perhaps Essex villagers, even citing bad history, past decade or so. Dr ROGER IREDALE

Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire

Sir: Mohamed al-Fayed's plans to form his own political party caused me some amusement. Most people will probably view him as a sulky little rich boy who took his ball away because he was not allowed to win the game.

I am surprised at the Conservative Party's inept handling of such figures as Mr Fayed and Sir

James Goldsmith. If the very people the party is supposed to represent - the super-rich - feel the necessity to form their own political parties, then something is very seriously amiss with the party's public

> FAY RIDLEY Luton, Bedfordshire

Sir: A sentence was omitted from the letter that you published from me yesterday, which may

have left some ambiguity.

I would like to make clear that there is no substance to the suggestion that I am a political mentor to Mohamed al-Payed or that I have been involved in any plans to create a new political again been put on the shelf. Another is the proposal for a giant Ferris wheel on the South Bank, to celebrate the millennium, the planning decision on which will be taken by a single local council, not London as a whole, indeed, the only way that Londoners seem to be able to express their desires is by supporting the City Corporation, which, as it has done on historic occasions in the past, now apparently proposes to defy the Government over the closure of St Bart's Hospital and reopen it on a charitable basis. Perhaps we are heading back to the medieval city

But this is no sensible way to run the metropolis. No wonder the arguments for the revival of an all-London authority, and the election of a Mayor for London. are belatedly gaining ground. GERALD ISAAMAN.

London WC2

Scargill's service to the Tories

Sir: I was not surprised to read cle ("A simple guide to saving the nation", 1 May) about Mohamed that Arthur Scargill is still committed politically to ideals that al-Fayed's alleged desire to set up were around 100 years ago ("Why Britain now needs a Socialist Labour Party", 2 May). The same could be said of his industrial policy. What he fails to recognise in setting up the Socialist Labour Party is that the conditions that people live and work in, and their aspirations, have changed dramatically while his beliefs have not. His policy to eradicate unemployment by "introducing a fourday working week with no loss of pay, banning all non-essential overtime, and introducing voluntary retirement on full pay at the age of 55" is a demandism without common sense.

It may well be right to describe the billions of pounds a year that we pay out on unemployment as economic insanity but no more so than Mr Scargill's demandism. His accusation that new Labour is in the process of abandoning the principle of universal pension provision is not true but we do have to recognise that many people at work pay into pension schemes, public or private, as I did when I worked in the coalmining industry.

becomes one of his groupies will have to recognise that they are doing as much of a service to the Conservative Party as many other leaders of factions have done throughout the years by splitting the left-of-centre votes. However, I have to say his defection has pleased far more people in the Labour Party than it has disappointed.
I doubt very much whether Mr

Scargill's political platform would be accepted anywhere in the world. His defence of his candidate's poor showing in the Hemsworth by-election is that her vote was only 1 per cent behind the Liberal Democrat's vote. What Mr Scargill failed to recognise was that it was 67 per cent behind new Labour's candidate, and long may it remain so.
KEVIN BARRON MP

Lord LESTER QC London WC2

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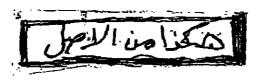
She said. "When I realised that tors breached the 1976 Euro
she said."

Court of Justice round that the Government would have to amend legislation.

heard him singing:
"Virginia Bottomley

Was very comely. Wasn't she lucky

Court of Justice round that the Government would such as managed passports." I missioning IRA weapons.



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Mr Scargill and anybody who

(Rother Valley, Lab) House of Commons

Legal quibbles

Sir: Michael Mears (Letters, 1 May) accuses his adversaries in the Law Society of feeding on grievances, not achievements. I do not know why he finds that strange. They are lawyers, after all. RICHARD MANN

Watch Atlanta win the jobs race

The Olympics, like everything else in the city, have been planned with commerce in mind

We are going to hear a lot more about Atlanta in the next few hit an economy that is already growweeks; indeed by the time the Olympics are through we may feel we know rather more than we want to about the place. If so, that would be a pity, for a visit there earlier this week has convinced me that other cities around the world have a great deal to learn from Atlanta.

At the moment, all seems chaos. The Olympic Park in the city centre, which will be the focal point of the celebrations, is a sea of mud and bull-dozers. Shopfitters are working 18 hours a day to finish the new shops at the airport. But construction being what it is, you would expect a lastminute scramble and there is no reason to doubt that come July the place will be ready. Atlanta is accustomed

On the simple measure of job creation, it is the most successful city in the US. Other cities can probably learn something useful from the way it has handled the games; but they can learn something even more useful if they can understand how the city has been so successful in creating permanent employment.

The job numbers are stunning. The city – or rather the metropolitan district, for the city centre has a population of only 400,000 while the district is now 3.7 million – has been creating between 40,000 mt new jobs a year since the beginning of the jobs a year since the beginning of the 1990s: more than half a million jobs

ing very fast.

This is crucial to understanding the likely impact of the games on the economy. Hosting the Olympics can be anything from an economic catastrophe, loading future generations with unpaid debts (Montreal), to giving a solid boost (Barcelona), or perhaps not having any notable effect either way (Los Angeles). The trick is not just to make the games pay in themselves, but rather to use them to stimulate more lasting growth. Atlanta has almost certainly succeeded in the first, but achieving the second goal matters more.

There were two principles behind the Olympic strategy. The first was to use existing facilities wherever possible, as Los Angeles did. So to create the Olympic Village, they took over two-thirds of the campus of Georgia Tec, the technical college a couple of miles from the city centre. Soccer, soft-ball, hardball, judo, gymnastics and some other sports all use existing facilities at Georgia Tec, Georgia State University, or other venues around the country.

This self-evidently cuts the costs, but it does not leave a legacy of new facilities. So the second principle was, when building anew, only to build for use after the games. If the permanent need were different from the temporary one, they built for the former, then adapted it for the latter.



The city is drivingly pro-business and has been for 30 years

Braves. But they only wanted a 40,000seater, while the Olympics need 80,000 seats. So the stadium has been designed for the baseball team's needs in the newly fashionable "retro" style; but for the Olympics it will have the extra capacity, which will subsequently be ripped out. Another example is the agustic facilities which wall have the aquatic facilities, which will be used by the Tec and will have 4,000 seats; but capacity will be more than doubled for the games by adding temporary seats.
The location is not ideal and there will be traffic jams; but that is surely better than building the ideal pools for the games and then having them in the

wrong place ever after.
The finances? The Olympic committee is spending \$1.7bn, and it has said it will not make a loss, though it in the past decade. It is creating jobs faster than much bigger cities, like the stadium. It will used by the Atlanta on a narrow accounting, the sums will

show some kind of modest plus. From the point of view of the local economy, however, there will be a considerable profit because of the additional money brought into the state.

The most thorough study of that. The Economic Impact on the State of Georgia of Hosting the 1996 Olympic Games, by Jeffrey Humphrys and Michael Phummer, puts a \$5.1bn ticket on the whole event. They is made up on the whole event. That is made up of \$2.6bn of direct and indirect spending and a further \$2.5bn of spending by visitors from 1991 through to 1997.

Beyond even that is the visibility Atlanta will attract from worldwide, wall-to-wall TV coverage for 17 days. That is very hard to quantify. If things go well, it is likely at the margin to attract more inward investment into the state: Georgia already is second only to California in the number of Japanese companies established there.

I suspect that, when the dust settles, there will be some net economic gains over and above the new facilities that will have been built. But since the city is doing so well anyway, all that will have happened is that it will have grown a bit faster than it otherwise would have done. Several residents I met talked of the games "putting Atlanta on the map". But if you are the headquarters of Coca-Cola and CNN, and have people like Whitney Hous-ton and Elton John living there (Mick Jagger also has a pad), you are pretty

much on the map already.
Indeed from the point of view of economic strategy, the most interesting thing about the Atlanta region is

the breadth of the base. It has got itself into a string of growing sectors and has no "smoke-stack" legacy. Having soft drinks and media is a good start. Being a centre for sports personalities is immensely helpful. Atlanta is the new hot city for the record industry. It has the second busiest airport in the world (after O'Hare in Chicago - Heathrow is only the busiest for international passengers). But it also has middling-

abroad, attracted by the general probusiness climate. And that is the key to understanding Atlanta. It is determinedly, dri-vingly pro-business and it has been for the past 30 years. The Olympics is driven by business. Tax and spending policies are driven by business. Even policies on race are driven by business as captured in the slogan "The city too busy to hate". Atlanta has made

sized manufacturers, many from

sions and has probably managed these less badly than any other large Inevitably there will be costs in the rapid growth that this business-first attitude has created. The building boom has meant that Atlanta is a heat island in an already hot state. There are problems with sewage. There is a lot of concern about the quality of the

a determined effort to curb racial ten-

public schools. Crime is high. But if you want jobs, this is how to get them. As you watch the Olympics, remember you are watching one very visible example of how the US city most strongly driven by business interests goes about ... its business.

Bad children can get better

The court ruling against Michael Howard in the Bulger case is a victory for justice, argues Allan Levy

The High Court ruling yes-terday against Michael Howard's decision to set a 15year minimum term to be served by the boys who killed Jamie Bulger in 1993 was a vic-tory for those advocating that children should not be treated

The judgment firmly recognises that special considera-tions apply to the children in the criminal justice system. This is so even if they have been responsible for appalling criminal acts.

In particular the judges ruled that the sentence given to Jon Venables and Robert Thompson, detention during Her Majesty's Pleasure, must not be equated with mandatory life imprisonment given to an adult convicted of murder. The court said that it could not accept that in the case of an offender aged 10 or 11 the Home Secretary was permitted to fix a tariff of 15 years at the outset, as if the offender were an adult.
This approach is entirely

consistent with the Government's international obligations to consider the special position of the child under, for instance, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and, by analogy with the civil as opposed to criminal sphere, the principles set out in the much heralded Children Act of 1989. Indeed, the court's decision rationalises what has been seen by many commentators as an inherent contradiction in the Government's fundamental approach to children and young people. The duty of the Home Secretary, as laid down by the court, is to keep an open mind in respect of the future detention of children who have received an indeterminate sentence and to keep under review the whole question of the length of the loss of liberty.

The court emphasised that any review is entitled to encompass a punishment and deterrence element, together with the risk to the public and public confidence. The age of the offender was clearly an important factor, as the Home Sechis flawed decision. However, the mental and physical changes that will inevitably occur to any child of 10 or 11 must be central to any decision. The different considerations regarding the child as opposed to the adult can also be seen in the question of the effect of deterrence, which raises different questions in the case of a very young offender from those in the case of an adult. The point was made that

The writer is a QC specialising in

regular reviews of detention for children. The court was shown instructions given to prison governors as long ago as 1949. These called for reports 12 months after the sentence was passed and then at yearly intervals. This is, of course, inconsistent with an approach of fix-ing a long term at the outset of the sentence with a first review only three years before the min-

there is nothing new in having

imum period of detention ends. The approach of the court is surefy reasonable and under-standable and what Parliament clearly intended in its legislation going back to 1908, when it abolished the death penalty for children and emphasised

The likely effect is that the system of setting a tariff will fall into disuse

the importance of rehabilitative and preventive aspects. As the recent Justice report on children and homicide noted. there is extensive research evidence to demonstrate that important developmental changes continue through the teenage years. There is more self-awareness and self-reflection; additionally, during adolescence, there is a greater tendency to look back with regret and to look ahead with apprehension. Young people become increasingly able to consider the long-term consequences of their actions and tend to think about such consequences more in terms of their own sense of responsibility and a better awareness of the effects of their actions on other people. All these factors point towards continual assessment and evaluation.

It is likely that the effect of the court's ruling is that the system of setting a tariff will fall into disuse, but the court has left it to the Home Secretary to devise new procedures. retary recognised when making But his involvement may become academic if the application to Strasbourg on behalf of Jon Venables and Robert Thompson, due to be heard in September, is successful. The outcome may well bring to an end the Home Secretary's role and leave matters where many think they rightly belong: in the hands of the independent

Are you ready to downshift?

Downsizing is the spectre that haunts Britain. But there is a new alternative to sweeping job cuts, argues Stephen Bevan

We are experiencing a revolution in the workplace. Delayering, downsizing, redundancies, cutbacks all have left companies heading for corporate anorexia. The few employees left behind are over-worked and discontented, fearful for their jobs. They feel little love for employers: survivors wonder when will the reaper take them out. Just when everyone needs to pull together, when loyalty is at a premium, employees are disgruntled, angry and looking to leave.

In short, large companies are heading for big trouble unless they move fast. They are reducing their staffing to a core upon which, ironically, they are far more dependent than ever before. Yet that core has less reason than ever before to remain loyal.

Nowhere is this dilemma more true than in banking, where competition and electronic technology means that thousands of jobs are being shed and will continue to be lost for the next decade. Branches that once teemed with clerks and tellers are empty shells where a few people keep the machines running and provide a human face. Yet just as the revolution has moved

into its bloodiest phase, salvation seems to have appeared. This week, National Westminster Bank announced plans to cut the equivalent of 15,000 jobs, nearly a third of its staff. These days, that's barely news. The real surprise is that the bank proposes to make the cutbacks not by mass compulsory redundancies, but by work-sharing among employees. That means four-day weeks and part-time working for thousands of workers. Not redundancy, but less working.
It sounds like a publicity stunt, a big

profit-chasing company suffering a temporary attack of conscience: it is hard for banks, busy celebrating bumper profits, to announce that they are sending thousands of loyal employees on to the dole queue. Here, it seems, is a way to appease bitter staff who have their noses pressed to the window as shareholders feast.

Perhaps. But cynics should take a second look at what NatWest is

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Art of living: 'downshifting'- working part time - would give fathers the chance to spend more time with their children

Tony Buckingham

of the future, the blueprint of how big companies will cut their costs, while at the same time preserving some sense of stability, loyalty and well-being among their employees. It may well be sumers and their share ownership. It is clear that companies such as NatWest have clearly recognised that

ing the hours their employees work. This trend is already becoming established in the United States. The Lincoln Electric Company, for example, recently promised employees with more than three years' service that they would not be laid off through lack of work. This dispensation has required some short-time working and a reallocation of work. But it is based on the belief that "relief from anxiety over job security frees people to do their best work". In California, New United Motor manufacturing (NUMMI), a Toyota-General Motors joint venture, has guaranteed job security in return for a reduction in the number of job layers and for more flexible working practices. This has resulted in increased

trust between management and work-

proposing. The bank's cost-saving

measures could in fact be the pattern

that the brutal days of simple down-

sizing are numbered, and that the

smart company of the future will

instead opt for "downshifting", reduc-

force. And "trust", as Francis Fukuyama, the American commentator, argues in his latest bestseller, is the gel that holds together organisations which may in a short space of time see rapid changes in their employees, their con-

(leaving aside issues of ethics, public relations and a new industrial relations agenda, all of which are important) it makes sound business sense to take radical steps to make the changes necessary in their business to build up trust, motivation and confidence in their remaining employees. Such a view of enlightened self-interest in other companies might well be

welcomed by many employees. There is a growing voice in favour of a more forgiving workplace that can allow people to give their non-working lives more of a priority. Men - particularly fathers - have joined the chorus of complaint against the ever-longer working hours that seem to be the price of career advancement or of being able simply to stand still and avoid redundancy. One telling statistic is that a third also offers opportunities to groups to whom the workplace has been inflexible. Women returning to employment. people with caring responsibilities for children or elderly relatives, older workers and people with disabilities might all benefit from a move away from the traditional model of full-time work, which conventional downsizing has tended to reassert. So, if Nat West blazed a trail for other companies to follow, it might receive the thanks of

more than just its own staff. But a sceptical eye should be cast upon moves to worksharing and the redistribution principle. It will be less welcome among those who actually need a full-time salary and for those who regard having a full-time job as critical to their psychological wellbeing and self-esteem. Reductions in working time, without a concomitant increase in feelings of job security might do little for individual confi-

dence or a consumer-led recovery. The biggest question mark against seeing downshifting as the nirvana, the long-awaited humanising of inevitable cost-cutting, springs from the fact it is of fathers of young children work more driven by business imperatives rather

than 50 hours a week. Downshifting than the desires of the workforce. The practice may make sense in the short run to companies such as Nat West that cannot afford to traumatise their structures with the scale of job cuts which the economics of their industry demand. But in the longer term, they may think that they have little choice other than to cut their workforce and consolidate the company around a much smaller staff. If this is the longterm outcome, and staff recognise it as such, then downshifting will soon be rumbled as a con, a device cynically used to manipulate employees to the company's advantage without offering them any long-term security. Such a result will do little to establish that rare and fast-disappearing glue - trust and loyalty - that is now needed more than ever to help companies through rocky and uncertain times ahead.

Nat West may be pioneering a bold, imaginative way forward. But the bank may still have a lot to prove to employees whom the Nineties has turned into cynics.

The writer is associate director of the Institute for Employment Studies at the

So, you wanted to be a local councillor

T suspect that few of the thousand or I so newly elected councillors will wake up this morning really knowing quite what they have taken on. When I became a councillor in the Isle of Dogs in Tower Hamlets two years ago. it was days before the sheer relief of defeating the British National Party began to wear off. All week letters and cards arrived, many of them from places I'd never visited. The Liberal mayor of one spa town sent me a card saying simply: "Greetings from one

Town Hall to another." But don't expect your euphoria to last for long. You might find a nasty surprise waiting for you. One day after the election, we found out that the previous administration had already sold off our borough's historic town hall. No matter how much former coun-

cillors have tried to dissuade you from standing for the council, nothing can prepare you for the scale of the task you have taken upon yourself. When I was told it would mean going to meetings every night of the week, I thought this was an exaggeration. Little did I know that I would find myself trying to go to two, three or

more meetings a night and still end up feeling guilty about the one I'd missed. By becoming a public figure whose address and phone numbers are openly available for inspection, you find your home life subjected to some unbelievable intrusions. Although I've

discovered how to deal with the odd telephone call from drunk British National Party members, it is harder to know what to say to some lonely old lady whose entire social life appears to consist of ringing up councillors at two o'clock in the morning. If the Town Hall offers to lend you an answering

Yesterday's winners face nightly meetings, crank calls, the odd

bouquet among the brickbats. Stephen Molyneaux has some tips

machine, you'd be wise to accept.

People imagine that councillors get paid for all this, and it is true we all ger attendance allowances for committee and council meetings. Yet receiving £22.50 for a day off work or an evening's work is hardly adequate uneration for the toll that council duties can impose on your professional and domestic life.

The rewards of being a councillor are to be found elsewhere. When you are stopped on your way round the supermarket and thanked for helping a family to rearrange their debts before a loan shark called round or the bailiffs turned up, you know why you carry on. Opening a new chil-dren's playground or a primary school in your ward can be equally rewarding as you see dry committee minutes translated into facilities that are managed and used by the local community. If I could send one message to

everyone who was elected last night, it would be to enjoy your hard-won victory and the service you give to your borough, but try to set aside one night of the week for those near to you. Remember also that most hard-working councillors are quickly forgotten when they come off the council, even if their council's achievements and failures remain visible for decades. While it lasts, however, local politics can be fun, frustrating and bloody hard work. Good luck with the task that you have let yourself in for - there are plenty of surprises and another round of elections awaiting you in four

The writer is a Labour councillor for the Millwall ward of Tower Hamlets, in east

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Lord Houghton of Sowerby

On the death of Hugh Gaitskell in January 1963, Harold Wilson, then Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, was elected Leader of the Labour Party and in his place came Douglas Houghton, I was fascinated, as the newest member of the committee, by the genuine respect Houghton elicited from the civil service knights and dames (Mary Smieton and Evelyn Sharpe), accorded to him not simply as PAC chairman but on account of what the mandarins knew of his past. For some of them, Houghton had been a veritable institution of their own profession for over 40 years; for all the accounting officers of the 1960s, he was quelqu'un and far more than simply another politician. Houghton was the pioneer/creator of civil service

In his 1987 autobiography Time and Chance, James Callaghan observes that the measure of Houghton's leadership was that he gained the lifelong loyalty and admiration of the membership. "His con-temporaries have cherished him all his life as an outstanding leader, who forged their union for them, and achieved conditions they could not have won without him." Over an outstanding span of

38 years, from 1922 to 1960, Houghton was General Secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, which started life as the Association of Officers in Tax Offices (AOTO). This small, but remarkable. trade union managed to attract a 95 percent voluntary membership without the benefit of a closed shop; and despite the fact that its 10,000 members were scattered in 600 separate towns and offices the length and breadth of Britain. In the informed judgement of Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, who was at the age of 21 elected to the NEC of the union. This was mainly due to the vigour and organisation ability of the General Secretary, Douglas Houghton, who was then a young man in his early thirties.

Houghton was an inspirational innovator, and continued to think constructively until his mid-nineties, as those of us who talked to him, padding around

Westminster, can testify. One of Houghton's inspirations was to fill the gap left by the failure of the Board of Inland Revenue to provide new recruits with any systematic instruction. He decided that a course should be prepared to enable newcomers to pass the qualifying examination for promotion, and with the voluntary aid of other members of the union, a course of tuition covering the syllabus was devised. Houghton then submitted the proposed course to the Inland Revenue Department; he re-

Houghton's tuition course proved a useful bait to draw new members into the AOTO; even those who could find no other reason for belonging to a trade union understood this to be a positive attraction. For 15 shillings, the AOTO was ready to provide new recruits with a six-

month correspondence course. Houghton insisted on a written paper to answer, which arrived regularly once a fortnight, and the provision of a voluntary tutor, allocated to each student, drawn either from within the student's own office or from a nearby town. The dynamo behind this voluntary work was Houghton, and his passion for detailed care was such that the new recruits could hardly fail to pass the examination. In the 1930s, the Civil Service

was rigidly stratified. The clerical class was drawn from the secondary schools; the executive class from the sixth forms of the grammar schools, and the ad-ministrative class from the universities. Once a young person was tagged "clerical class", he or she could hardly, if ever, escape and improve themselves by internal means. So, in an age when for many families higher education was an impossible dream, there was a host of young people confined to the clerical class who were quite as able as those in the executive class - and, indeed, some uni-

versity entrants. Houghton perceived this sit-uation, and rather than resort to posturing and ranting about the iniquities of the class system, tried to do something constructive about it. He persuaded the Board of Inland Revenue to hold an internal examination that would enable members of the clerical class to be promoted to the tax inspectorate. After much patient negotiation, believing that in life more flies were caught with honey than with vinegar, Houghton persuaded the Revenue to institute an examination from which 10 clerks a year would be selected for promotion. This examination may seem

proverbial small beer nowadays; it was the opening up of a chink in the rigid system of class stratification of the 1930s which, apart from all else, was to be so inefficient for the country. Houghton was a passionate believer that Britain he was enormously patriotic should be a land of equal opportunity. He also believed that the avenue to success should be kept open, and this was translated into staunch and committed support for Harold Wilson and Jenny Lee, when the Oxbridge cabinet members were faint-hearted and scepti-

cal about the Open University. Since I stayed in London within a stone's throw of Houghton's Westminster piedterre, at Marsham Court, he-



adge: Douglas Houghton (right) at the BBC canteen in 1943, in a break from recording Can I Help You?

with him after late-night votes. none of which, although he was in his mid-seventies, he thought he ought to miss as PLP Chairman. His father and mother, John and Martha, he described as orthodox, Victorian

yeomen, for whom he had a lasting affection. At school, his headmaster was Frederick Attenborough, father of Richard and David Attenborough. What changed his life was the First World War, and, a fact to which he seldom referred, experience as a lad, barely turned 18, of the Battle of the Somme, From being a raw 16-year-old school leaver, and apprentice clerk in the local tax office, Houghton was catapulted into the trenches, as a Private in the Civil Service Rifles.

opinions. Houghton had the same attitude as Macmillan since so many of all back-grounds had laid down their lives together, fellow countrymen were worthy of respect. Cheap abuse, so much the currency of modern politics, Houghton regarded with conternot, and he deprecated the behaviour of his own colleagues

Albeit a man of vehement

witnessed his teenage contemporaries massacred in Flanders, one really does think that one has some obligation to try and make the world a more 'civilised' [one of Houghton's favourite words] place.

Forty-five years after Houghton was demobbed from the 60th Rifles, it was fitting that the Labour government of Wilson-Callaghan should appoint him to the Royal Com-mission on Standards of Conduct in Public Life. For Houghton, one of the things that really mattered in life was Good Behaviour. High up in Houghton's pantheon of Bad Behaviour was being petty. Walking back one night, after a particularly frustrating meeting of the PLP, Houghton told me, "If like me you feel you are lucky to be alive, living on borrowed time after the carnage of the Somme, you can be forgiven for becoming impatient with

pettiness among colleagues!"
It was not without thought that he chose as his motto on his coat of arms when he was made a life peer in 1974 "Bear no base mind". Nor was it an accident that his armorial

flected his abiding interest in animal welfare, and his vice-presidency of the RSPCA from 1978 to 1982. From 1941, Houghton had

become a household name. In the days when the BBC Home Service was unchallenged, the Can I Help You? programme partly because it certainly could help you – was followed by millions. Perhaps the most effective contributor of all was Houghton. His knowledge of tax in particular, and the government machine in general, was encyclopaedic. It was also expressed with avuncular common sense, with something of a rasp. For Houghton a spade was a spade. The advice was sound. And it was not bectoring.

His period as an alderman on the LCC, from 1947 to 1949. forged a link with Herbert Morrison. Albeit Houghton was over 50, saw his life in the Trade Union Movement, and did not entertain parliamentary ambitions, it was Morrison who persuaded him that it was his duty to go forward in the Sowerby by-election. This had been the seat of John Belcher, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade in the Attlee episode of what by today's standards would be petty corruption (Belcher was accused of ministerial misbehaviour in relation to spivs and the black market).

That, after entering the House of Commons, Houghton became identified neither with the Bevanites nor the Gaitskellites, or any of the factions in the fractious Labour Party of the 1950s, is due to the fact that he spent the decade as a busy member of the General Coun-

a candidate of national reputa-

tion was required to hold the

seat, and Labour's hitherto

unblemished record in by-

cil of the TUC. In addition to remaining General Secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, Houghton was in the pivotal position of Chairman of the Staff Side of the Civil Service National Whitley Council from 1956 to 1958, at a period of delicate tensions between the public sector and the Macmilian government.

When he embarked on his ministerial career Houghton was already 66 years old. Per-

Photograph: Hulton Getty caster, co-ordinating the Social Services, that gained Houghton the reputation of being an indecisive and uncomfortable minister. Besides, Anthony Crosland at Education, Dick Crossman at Housing, Peggy Herbison at Pensions and Kenneth Robinson at Health, directly responsible for major Departments of State, were hardly the easiest colleagues to co-ordinate. But it was precisely the skills developed over 40 years that made Houghton an outstanding PLP Chairman, at a time of inordinate party difficulty over Vietnam, Prices and incomes, and In Place of Suife. Had the querulous and capricious Emmanuel Shinwell continued as PLP Chairman past 1967, there would have been chaos in the parliamentary

ranks of the governing party.
It is difficult to identify anyone else who could have been so acceptable to the Left, the Trade Union Group, the Loy-alists, and indeed the Cabinet itself from which Wilson had gently sacked him at the age of 69. Gruff and pugnacious, haps it was his immense skill at Houghton was a broker par exnegotiation and compromise, or cellence. It was a measure of his created 1974 Buron Houghton of perhaps it was the fact that he success that it occurred to no Sowerby; married 1939 Veru

1974, when it was his task to help Labour in Opposition ride the colossal tensions generated by Ted Heath's entry into the EEC. No septugenarian ever rendered more service to his political party. Devoid of vanity. Houghton had a wry, peppery. funny, self-deprecating humour that defused many an ugly sitnation, though chairing the PLP in fraught circumstances, at the age of 75, risked in one of his favourite phrases "driving this ancient war-horse to apoplexy".

An Indian summer, which

lasted for 20 years, began in 1974, when Houghton was created a life peer. "I am free as a bird to pursue the issues that I care about." And those issues included the Reform of the Constitution, Population and Development, the House of Lords Industry Study Group. Commonwealth Scholarships, and Teacher's Pay, on which he chaired the 1974 inquiry.

But two issues, in particular. dominated the evening of Houghton's life, and both were close to the heart of his wife, the truly formidable Vera Travis. who, after 47 years of close murriage, died in 1986 - animal welfare and abortion law reform. No vice-president of the RSPCA was more active, and no abortion law reformer more

In 1986, when those of his contemporaries still alive were over eighty, more than 60 of them gathered in the House of Lords to pay tribute to Houghton Understandably.

One of my lasting memories of Douglas Houghton was in the House of Lords, listening to the silver voice of his supporter, the distinguished law lord Lord Templeman at 10pm on Wednesday 27 March this year, then seeing him stagger to his feet, shielded by the caring arms of Lord Graham of Edmonton, to make the final speech on the Dogs Bill which was so dear to his heart. Even in his 98th year he was a crusader for the causes he believed in.

Tam Dalvell

Arthur Leslie Noel Douglas Houghton, politician: born Long Eaton, Derbyshire 11 August 1898; Secretary, Inland Revenue Staff Federation 1922-60; Alderman, London County Council 1947-49; Member of Parliament (Labour) for Sowerby 1949-74; member, General Council, TUC 1952-60; Chairman, Staff Side, Civil Service National Whitley Council 1956-58; Chairman, Public Accounts Committee 1963-64; PC 1964; Chancellor of the Duchy of Lan-caster 1964-66: Minister With-out Portfolio 1966-67; CH 1967; Chairman, Parliamentary Labour Party 1967-70, 1970-74: though they did not officially tween 1970 and 1974, it was a Houghton would say in his that the centre-piece should government, and in the wake of was given the non-job of Chan-one to challenge him, between Travis (died 1986); died Cater-recommend it to new recruits. pleasure for me to walk back gravelly voice, "once a lad has be a barn-owl statant. This re-the Lynskey Tribunal into an cellor of the Duchy of Lan-November 1970 and February ham, Surrey 2 May 1996.

Eric Houghton



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When Eric Houghton kicked a football, it was sensible not to stand in its path. Between the wars, as an Aston Villa and England left-winger, he established a reputation as one of the most destructively powerful marksmen the game had seen. Off the pitch, though, the author of those famously violent strikes was a mild and courteous fellow, and throughout his subsequent career as a manager, the highlight of which was leading his heloved Villa to FA Cup glory in 1957, he ruled by a quiet strength of character which

earned him widespread respect. Houghton had seemed destined for a life in soccer since his teenage days as a prodigiously prolific centre-forward who revelled in turning out for his school on a Saturday morning, then playing for his village side in the afternoon. After excelling in local non-League cir-

cles, notably with Boston Town, he was recommended to Aston Villa by an uncle who had once played for the club, signing amateur forms in 1927 and giving up a bakery job to turn pro-

sional a year later. Having been converted into a flankman - Villa were magnificently served in the centre by the revered "Pongo" Waring Houghton gained rapid promotion to the senior side, uncharacteristically missing a penalty on his début in January 1930 but impressing generally with his dashing style, his slick manipulation of the ball and,

above all, his shooting provess. Clearly the eager rookie offered immense promise, but no one expected the Houghton star to ascend quite so instantly as it did during the season of 1930-31, in which he scored 30 times as Villa finished as First Division runners-up, and he was rewarded by an England call-up. He netted in that game, too, a 5-1 victory over All Ireland, and could count himself unlucky that his prime coincided with that of Arsenal's Cliff Bastin, whose brilliance ended Houghton's international in-

volvement only two years later. At club level, however, the Villa man continued to flourish, and he played a major part in the club's Second Division championship triumph of 1938.

All the while the Houghton "howitzer" grew in renown and he became a dead-ball specialist, many of the 170 senior goals he netted before leaving Villa Park in 1946 having come

from penalties and free-kicks.

Houghton's new club was

lowly Notts County, for whom he played until 1949 when he took over as manager and, with England centre-forward Tommy Lawton at his disposal, led them to the Third Division (South) title in his first campaign at the helm. Three terms of unspectacular consolidation followed before he took the job closest to his heart, that of bossing Aston Villa. Quietly but firmly, he set about revitalising a once-great club now fallen on mediocre times. He gave youngsters a chance and he spent heavily on well-known re-

ambition of mounting a realistic championship challenge. There was uplifting consolation in 1957, though, when the Villans upset the odds to beat newly-crowned League champions Manchester United in the FA Cup Final, albeit in con-troversial circumstances after United's goalkeeper was seriously injured. However, hopes that the Wembley victory would inspire a general recovery were dashed and, with his side strug-gling near the foot of the table,

cruits, but could not achieve his

a sad Houghton was sacked in November 1958.

Thereafter the popular Eastcountryman joined Nottingham Forest as chief scout and bossed non-League Rugby Town in the early 1960s, before serving Walsall in various capacities, including director. Next he en-joyed a second return to Villa Park, pioneering the club lottery before taking a seat on the board for seven years from 1972, and in 1983 was elevated to senior vice-president.

Houghton - who in his youth had been a sporting all-rounder proficient enough at cricket to play for Lincolnshire at Minor Counties level and Warwickshire Seconds - retained his feryour for football to the end, watching Villa regularly at senior, reserve and youth level un-til ill health curtailed his activity during the current season. He never tired of reminiscing with supporters, never refused to sign an autograph, was never less than a perfect gentlemen. When Eric Houghton died, Aston Villa lost one of their most loyal servants and an ambassador of immeasurable worth.

Ivan Ponting

William Eric Houghton, football player, manager and adminis-trator: born Billingborough, Lin-colnshire 29 June 1910; died Birmingham 1 May 1996.

Children's Hour, which stirred the imagination of countless young listeners, reached its heyday under the direction of David Davis, as he was commonly known. These were the days of Uncle Mac, Larry the Lamb, Worzel Gummidge and The Wind in the Willows.

Davis had joined Children's Hour at the beginning of 1935 as a staff accompanist. After education at the Queen's College, Oxford he had qualified as a professional musician and become a schoolmaster. When the vacancy for an accompanist oc-curred on Children's Hour, one curred on Children's Hour, one of the regular producers, Bar-as a freelance she continued to bara Sleigh, recalled a young man who had taught at her uncle's school and who used to improvise at the piano with skill and pleasure. She found that he had moved to Bembridge School in the Isle of Wight.

Davis was sent a copy of The Listener's advertisement which got delayed in the post, so that when he applied it was past the closing date. However he was given an audition, did well at sight-reading a difficult piece. and was offered the vacancy. The Headmaster of Bembridge commented: "Sir, this is not the act of a gentleman", adding That man will go strumming through life."

Soon Davis was also found to

microphone as a reader. His attached to the Hellenic Navy. first long serial reading was Anna Sewell's Black Beauty. After his retirement he made professional recordings of this much-loved story, as well as of The Wind in the Willows and Kipling's Just So Stories. He was able to persuade the Kipling estate to allow his stories to be broadcast - provided that there

were no changes.

Early in 1936 Davis married Barbara Sleigh. Under the BBC rules at the time a married couple were not allowed to work in the same department. Barbara adapt books for dramatic presentation on Children's Hour. Davis himself adapted A.A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh, which entranced countless children over the years with Norman

Shelley playing Pooh.

At the outbreak of war Davis was seconded to the Fire Service in London, but soon joined the Children's Hour team, who were broadcasting from Bristol with Derek McCulloch (Uncle Mac), the Head of Children's Hour, as the chief presenter. He introduced the future Queen on her first broadcast on Children's Hour from Windsor Castle on 13 October 1940.

Davis joined the RNVR in 1942, serving mainly in the be an excellent performer at the Mediterranean, and for a time

The staff gave him a pipe lighter - he was always a keen pipe smoker - which went down with the rest of his possessions when his ship was sunk. But he survived, worked for a while in

David Davis



Davis: Children's Hour

forces broadcasting, and in 1946 rejoined his London colleagues. Davis became the Head of Children's Hour in January 1953, with Josephine Plummer as his Assistant Head. His office was in the Langham Hotel, where he had a notice-board of letters and drawings, many from young listeners, and a collection of toy animals. In the corner was a small piano on which he improvised. At this time television began to emerge as a rival for children's attention, However it

did not occur to the Children's Hour staff that the well-established, popular radio programme would ever disappear.

Nevertheless, children in their millions were now turning to watch the box. By 1964 the daily listening audience to Children's Hour had dropped to a mere 25,000. Frank Gillard. who had become the Director of Radio the year before, decided it must be terminated. It happened on Good Friday. which Davis thought was ap-propriate. There was a critical motion in Parliament, signed by

60 MPs, but the deed was done. Davis spent the last six years of his BBC career as a drama producer, specialising in Victoriana, for which he had a passion. Particularly remembered is George Eliot's Middlemarch with Jill Balcon. In retirement he continued reading stories on the radio in that beautifully modulated voice.

Leonard Miali

William Eric Davis (David Davis), radio executive: born Malvern 27 June 1908; Head of Children's Hour, BBC 1953-61. Head of Children's Programmes (Sound) 1961-64: drama producer 1964-70; retired 1970; married 1935 Barbara de Riemer Sleigh (died 1982, one son, two daughters); died London 29 April 1996.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

SNELL: Teresa Mary (née Purnell), died l May, peacefully, at home. Funeral ou Tuesday 7 May at Battersea Sacred Heart Church, Thort Street, at 11am. All enquiries to Ernest Larner and Son. 0171-123 5432.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax to 0171-293 2010. Clarges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays

Mr James Brown, singer, composer and musician, 63; Miss Pat Chapman, former editor, News of the World, 48; Miss Betty Comden, playwright and screenwriter, 77; Mrs Kathy Cook, athlete, 36; Mr Henry Cooper, heavy-weight boxing champion, 62; Sir Graham Day, former chairman, Cadbury Schweppes and PowerGen, 63; Mr Ben Elton, comedian and author, 37; Sir Russell Fairgrieve, former MP and chairman, Quality Guaranteed, 72; Sir William Glock, music lectur-72; Sr Wallam Glock, music lectur-er and critic, 83; Lt-Gen Sir Michael Gray, defence industries adviser, 64; Sir William Gray, former Lord Provost of Glasgow, 68; Dr David Harrison, Master, Selwyn College, Cambridge, 66; Professor Ruth Lister, social economist, 47; Mr Eddie Loyden MP, 73; Colonel Sir Michael

McCorkell Lord-Lieutenant of County Londonderry, 71; Miss Sheila Association, 48: Sir Christopher MacRae, High Commissioner to Pakistan, 59; Mr Randle Manwaring poet and author, former insurance broker, 84; Mr Peter Oosterhuis, golfer, 47; Professor Anne Robertson, Roman numismatist, 86; Baroness Seccombe, Vice-Chairman, Conservative Party, 66; Mr Pete Seeger, folk singer, 77; Dr Nor-bert Singer, former Vice-Chancellor, Greenwich University, 65; Mr Nor-man Thelwell, illustrator, 73; Miss Sandi Toksvig, comedicane, 38; Mr Allan Wells, athlete, 44,

Anniversaries

Births: Niccolo di Bernardo dei Machiavelli, author and statesman 1469; Richard D'Oyly Carte, oper-atic impresario, 1844; Golda Meir (Goldie Meyerson), Israeli prime minister, 1898; Mary Astor, actress, 1906. Deaths: James Monson, patent pill purveyor, 1840; Herbert Farjeon, critic and playwright, 1945. On this cante and playwright, 1945. On this day: Jamaica was discovered by Columbus, 1494; New Zealand was proclaimed a British colony, 1841; the Festival of Britain opened, 1951; the first London production of the musical show Annie was staged, 1978. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Alexander Europiand Today. Alexander, Eventius and Theodulus, St James the Less, St Juvenul of Nami, St Philip the Apostle, St

Lectures National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Creative Copies (i): Francis Bacon and Velázquez's Innocent X", 1pm. Exeter University: Pieter van Dijk, "Judicial Protection of Human Rights in Europe; divergence, co-ordination or integration?", 5.30pm.

Luncheons Foreign and Commonwealth Office Sir Nicholas Bonsor MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Common-wealth Affairs, bosted a luncheon held yesterday at Lancaster House,

Philip of Zell and Saints Timothy and London SW1, in honour of Mr Maura. Nikoloz Lekishvili, State Minister of the Republic of Georgia.

> Lord Mayor of Westminster Mr Alan Bradley, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, and Mrs Pamela Bat-ty, the Lady Mayoress, were the hosts at a luncheon held yesterday at City

Hall, London SW1. Among those present were: Mr John Chalstrey, Lord Mayor of London, and Mrs Chalstrey; Mr David Allen, Col J.C.M. Ansell; Mr Kenneth Ayers, Sheriff, and Mrs Ayers; Mr Paul Bellamy, Mr Peter Brooke MP; Mr Richard Barton: Barunuss Chalker of Wallassy; Sir Paul Condon; Mr Robert Davis; Mr Nigel Dempster; Air Vice-Marshal Michael Dicken; Sir John Egan; Mr Reisno Folkuda; Mr Richard Gillis; Lord and Lash Cerule; The New Dr. Pater Granes. Matthew Ives: Mr Matthew Parris; Lord Par-ry; Lady Wilson of Reevauls; Li-Col Malcolm Ross: Mas Marie-Louise Rossi; Mr and Mrs James Spriggs: Sir Rodney and Lady Sweet-nam; Mr Kewn Taylor; Mr Peter Temple-Morris MT and Mrs Temple-Morris; Lady

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be

telephoning the following, Sabbat begins in London at 8.13pm. United Symagogues: 0171-387 4300. Federation of Symagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Symagogues: 0171-387 1663. Reform Symagogues: 0171-380 1663. Reform Symagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349-4731. Symish and Portugues: Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Symagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026. ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

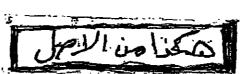
Changing of the Guard

Appointments

Mr Ivor Roberts, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Yegoslavia, at Belgrade. Mr Gregory Paulknes, to be British

Plus a once only encolment fee of £9.50 walved it you join by Direct Debit. Cars registered , before 31.7:87 are subject to additional fee of £22.50, Prices valid until 6/5/96.

"It was like coming home," behaviour of the school direction and the coming home, behaviour of the school direction and the control state of the coming home, behaviour of the school direction and the control state of th



The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, opens the new Library Build-ing at Hereford Cathedral, Prince Edward opens the Grampian Police Force Council Room. Aberdeen,

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regi-ment mounts the Oucen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 4pm.

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BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

&W pulls plug on £33bn merger with BT

MICHAEL HARRISON

The £33bn merger of British Telecom and Cable and Wireless - the biggest deal in British corporate history - was sensa-tionally called off last night after the two companies failed to reach agreement on price. terms or their ability to combine in the face of mounting regula-

As news emerged of the collapse in the talks after the London markets had closed both sides claimed they had taken the initiative in terminating the proposed marriage.

Although the two companies

were at pains not to apportion blame, it is clear that a huge gulf continued to separate them. Conflicting explanations as to why the talks had ended were emanating from the two camps.

BI made it plain that the talks had broken down on price saying that "the risks, at this stage, outweigh the prospective op-portunities" of merging. This was taken to refer to the unrealistic price that C&W was demanding for its assets.

However, C&W said that the talks had foundered because of the "intractable" regulatory hurdies that a merged company would have faced in various

parts of the world. The C&W benefits to the company's part-Broan Smith met in the morntwo side had made in the last four weeks.

After a meeting lasting several hours it concluded that too many obstacles remained and too much damage was being done to its own prospects by the uncertainty. It therefore informed BT that it was terminating the discussions.

board was unanimous that "the sustainable improvement in shareholder value that it had

board, headed by chairman Dr ners and customers were not sufficiently certain in the light of the ing to consider the progress the regulatory and partnership issues, to offset the cost of further

> Dr Smith added: "We had knocked hardly any of the hurdles down and some of them frankly looked intractable, in particular the regulatory issues in more or less any country you care to mention.

"In the meantime our part-A statement said that its ners were getting more and more restive. When you can't put a timescale on a deal or a value on the business you have sought from the merger and the got to call a halt at some stage."

C&W sources said that the rities and Echange Commissio biggest obstacles were regulatory complications in Germany where both BT and C&W have competing stakes in rival telecom businesses and BT's own dificulties with its UK regulator, Don Cruickshank of Offel.

They also cited the difficult and lengthy regulatory passage the deal would have faced in the US because of BT's 20 per cent stake in MCI, the long-distance telephone operator. Because of the way the deal would have been structured as a reverse takeover of BT by C&W approval would have had to have been obrained from the Secufor the change in ownership of the MCI stake. C&W said this could have taken months.

However, BT sources denied that there had been any single "showstopper" suggesting that the talks had foundered because C&W was getting cold

The reguatory position in Hong Kong, where C&W owns 57.5 per cent of Hongkong Telecom, was not sad to have been a major obstacle even though there has been much speculatio about how China would view the merger when its takes control of the colony next year.

Big bank steps up security to foil bombers and rebellious investors ... but apathy reigns at the annual meeting

C&W is expected to appoint a new chief executive in the next few days. Dr Smith said that the task now was to deliver opportunities that would produce significant value for shareholers

as the group went forward. Rod Olsen, who has been acting chief executive since last November following the ousting of the former chairman. Lord Young, and chief executive James Ross, said: "We spent the 1st five months trying to construct a viable merger be-caue we thought it was logical industrially and might create additional value for share-

holders. Once we got into the

detail it became clear that the problems facing the new company were greater than we had

Although news of the collapse in talks came too late to affect either company's share price in London, both stocks were marked down heavily in New York where they are trad-

ed in the form of ADRs. C&W was down \$2 to \$21.25 - equivalent to a 53p fall in its closing London pric to 471p while BT was down \$3 to \$51.5 - equivalent to a 9p fall from its closing price in London of

Comment, page 21

Labour to set up rival to Tessas

NIC CICUTTI

The Labour Party plans to introduce a new tax-friendly savings account to encourage people to put more money aside, the party's City spokesman, Alistair Darling, said yesterday. Mr Darling said the plan, tentatively called an Individual Savings Account. would seek to fit between pension schemes and Tessas or personal equity plans in terms of its investment period.

"What we are seeking is to create something that is flexible, so that it can be used for a variety of purposes, including spending on long-term care, Mr Darling said.

"The aim would be to encourage a longer-term savings culture beyond the time-frame of a five-year Tessa or a PER" he added. "At present there is not the same incentive to save for the longer term.

breaks might be available to scheme would be part of a packsavers wishing to use the new ac- age of reforms to savings and ount, beyond saying that "fiscal incentives" would be given.

Mr Darling also refused to say whether the savings accounts would be offered by the Government or through banks, building societies and other financial institutions.

But it is believed the new sayings vehicle might be available through a government-sponsored agency or pool system, drawing in a number of fund management groups to con-trol charges by lumping together the small sums invested.

It is thought that the aim of the new savings account would not be to provide the Government with a fresh method of raising funds. Its primary aim would be to encourage savers to engage in equity-linked investments, while at the same time making it possible for them to do so without incurring the

costs currently levied by fund

managers. Mr Darling was speaking yesterday at the annual conference of the National Association of Pension Funds in Glasgow. He told delegates: "The promotion of saving will be an impor-tant part of our economic strategy. It has worth, not only for the individual, but it also makes funds available for investment. It therefore has value for the country as a whole."

He said that, if elected, an incoming Labour government would need to examine the influence of any tax regime because it clearly influenced people's propensity to save.

There are huge demographic changes taking place in this country," he said. "More and more people will want to make provision for themselves and we will encourage that propensity to save." Mr Darling added that further

He declined to say what tax details of the new savings pensions to be announced by Chris Smith, the shadow social security spokesman, in June. Mr Smith said vesterday: "My main concern is to ensure with my Treasury colleagues

that the proposals we are de-

veloping can dovetail with the work I am engaged in over pension provision. Delegates at the NAPF conference were told by Mr Darling that the old-style tax-and-spend regime of previous Labour governments would

never be repeated. "For business to flourish there has to be the appropriate tax regime," he "One of the ways [of achieving economic stability] is to ensure that companies and businesses have a stable tax regime which encourages long-term

productive investment but which does not otherwise distort

Far from the crowds: A Barclays shareholder arriving for yesterday's meeting at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London

Photograph: Jane Baker

Damp squib for **Barclays**

They came expecting fireworks, but in the end the directors at Barclays Bank left yesterday's annual general meeting with nothing more than a series of shareholder complaints about poor customer sérvice ringing in their ears, writes Patrick

Tooher. Barclays' annual meetings have long been the focus for pressure groups since antiapartheid activists launched a concerted campaign in the 1980s to stop the bank doing business in South Africa.

This year interest in the meeting was heightened after Barclays recently revealed it was the target of 16-month, 25homb campaign by an extor-tionist dubbed "Mardi Gra" and security was tight as shareholders gathered at the Queen Elizabeth II conference hall in central London.

Security this year was tighter than usual, with shareholders subjected to the checks more associated with airports.

Inside, the two-hour meeting was dominated by Struggle Against Financial Exploitation. a shareholder pressure group formed four years ago "to highlight and campaign against unacceptable behaviour by Barclays Bank and other major financial institutions". The main charges related to Barclays' attempts to recover debts.

business decisions." sometimes heavy management NAPF chief proposes end to tax-free nest eggs

Anne Robinson, director general of the National Association of Pension Funds, yesterday courted controversy by suggesting that the Government scraps the 25 per cent tax-free lump sum paid to millions of people on retirement, in exchange for restoring tax breaks previously enjoyed by the pension fund industry, writes Nic Cicutti.

She told a packed meeting of delegates in Glasgow yesterday that a deal might be struck with the Government. She said that if fund managers were allowed to claim back the 25 per cent of advanced corporation tax (ACT), against the 20 per cent they claim at present, then the

NAPF might give up its support for the tax-free lump sum paid when people take out their

Restoring ACT back to 25 per cent would enable pension fund managers to boost the value of dividends they receive on their investments by 6.25 per cent. But millions of members of schemes that link pensions paid out to years of service would be

badly hit by the move.
The level of ACT that can be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue was reduced by Norman Lamont, then the Chancellor, in 1993. The move, announced in that year's budget, led to billions of pounds being wiped off the value of shares overnight and there have been smaller

TOM STEVENSON City Editor

Hanson sold its Seven Seas vitamins business to Merck of Germany yesterday, completing the £2bn disposal programme it flagged last November. The £150m price tag was in line with expectations and, together with the controversial sale of the conglomerate's National Grid stake, brought the week's sales proceeds to £555m.

The deal, which analysts said was a full price at almost three times Seven Seas' annual sales of £59m, was the latest transaction in a blizzard of corporate activity since last summer when Hanson moved seriously into the electricity market with the acquisition of Eastern Group, the regional electricity distributor.

The £2.5bn cost of that purchase, together with the more than £2bn cost of buying five power stations from PowerGen and National Power, sent Hanson's gearing well over 100 per cent and prompted a rash of disposals.

Sales have included the withdrawal from North American timber, with the disposal of Cavenham Forest Industries, to raise £1.3hn. The flotation of Suburban Propone in March chipped in a further £510m

Hanson sells off Seven Seas Balancing the books: Paying for Hanson's electric shopping spree Major disposals

Ann 1995 Eastern Group £2.5bn. Det 1995 2 Powergen stations £400m -Nev 1995 Gravel quarties from Barden 2 £72m Nov 1995 Commol of Powerhouse.

retall chaloundisclosed.

Jan 1996 Belgann's biggest brick maker -£125m Apr 1996 3 National Power stations - £1.7bn

sales, including the former RECs' pump-storage business, raising £70m, and Eveready of South Africa for £84m. Hanson is now more or less in shape for its planned fourway split into its core

constituent businesses and yesterday Christopher Collins, vice-chairman, promised the demerger was on course. He said the chemicals and tobacco arms would be ready to be spun off by the targeted date of Hanson's September year-end with Energy being cast adrift by the end of the calendar year.

Hanson's shares closed lp lower yesterday at 196.5p, confirming the market's continuing scepticism about Hanson's

and the market's verdict Powerbouse to M80 FT All-Share (retrased) War 1995 Floats Suburban Propage : SS10m Mar 1995 Sells Cavenham, total proceeds - £1,3bn-Anr 1996 Salls Eveready of South Africa - £84m Apr 1996. Sells National Grid stake for £405m May 1996 Sells Seven Seas £150m

CURRENCIES

prospects, whether in one slice or four. As the chart below shows, they have underperformed the rest of the market by a sizeable amount since

the Eastern acquisition. Seven Seas was acquired in 1986 as part of Hanson's purchase of Imperial Tobacco, Britain's second-largest ciga-rette manufacturer. As part of a higger package it is not possible to say how much it was valued at 10 years ago, but Derek Bonham, chief executive, said

the business had "achieved continuous growth with Hanson". Seven Seas will continue to be based in Hull, where most of its products are made and the jobs of its 400 staff are understood

to be safe. Edward Roberts, the head of Merck's pharmaceutical unit, said the acquisition is part of a drive to boost sales of over-the-counter medicines. He said the company will look to take Seven Seas to other European markets.

Lutz Kunert, an industry analyst in Frankfurt, said sales at Seven Seas are expected to grow about 10 per cent in 1996, in line with the growth of over-thecounter drugs sales as a whole. by Merck," he said. "The company has not yet reached critical mass in over-the-counter medicines, but cuts in health

"It is a very interesting move budgets round the world mean OTC is a good place to be."

Lang's hold on golden shares stuns generators

MICHAEL HARRISON

lan Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, last night sprang another huge surprise on the City and the electricity industry by blocking any takeover bids for the two generating companies, National Power and PowerGen.

Mr Lang said that in the light of the possibility of bids being made for the generators he had decided to retain the golden shares in the two companies. These limit individual investors to a maximum holding of 15 per cent and last indefinitely.

The move appears to wipe out the prospect of an £8bn-plus bid for National Power from Southern Company of the US and sent shares in the two generators plunging. National Power shares fell 32p to 527p while PowerGen ended the day 12p lower at 536p.
Last night analysts and

industry observers were at a loss to understand Mr Lang's reasoning although one source said it made his decision to bar takeovers by the two generators of regional electricity companies look still more politically

Mr Lang said it was important that National Power and PowerGen remained independent generating companies operating in a market that was

not yet fully competitive. However, he added that the Government would be prepared to consider whether to redeem the special shares as and when it was satisfied that there was "adequate competition in generation and supply markets.

The statement merely added to the widespread confusion over the Government's policy towards the industry as it appeared to suggest that, for the time being, bids would be blocked irrespective of whether the bidders had existing interests in the power industry.

Mr Lang is due to set out the

Government's policy towards the utilities sector in a keynote speech to an Adam Smith conference in London next week.

The veto on bids for the two generators follows a warning from the electricity regulator, Profesor Stephen Littlechild, on Tuesday that he would oppose a Southern Company takeover of National Power on the grounds that the US company already owned a Rec - South Western Electricity.

National Power, which had been on bid alert for a move by Southern, said last night that it

The National Grid finally made contact with the Saudi investment group Olayan yes-terday in its effort to discover the future of the 12.5 per cent of its shares Hanson sold to James Capel on Tuesday for £405m. David Jones, chief executive, and John Uttley, finance director, met with Olayan executives in London to ascertain the significance of a hedging agreement between the Saudis and James Capel, the HSBCowned broker which admitted on Wednesday that it was the beneficial owner of the shares. In a statement, the Grid said: "It was a constructive and satisfactory meeting." A further statement is expected today.

would be demanding an immediate statement of clarification from the company. It also indicated that it would

go ahead with a new dividend policy and changes to its capiial structure despite the receding prospects of a hostile offer. This, it said, would take into

account the blocking of its own hid last week for Southern Electric of the UK, its plans for international expansion and the effect on its balance sheet of the £1.7bn sale of generating plant to the Hanson-owned Eastern Group. PowerGen re-

fused to comment. Comment, page 21



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FT Small Cap	2232.39	+0.68	+0,0	2232,39	1954.06 1791.95	3.72
FT All Share	1898.60	-10.76	-0.6	1924.17	3832.08	2.17
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Kwik Save losing the bean war

These are worrying times for Kwik Save, and management's decision to bring in Andersen Consulting to conduct a root-and-branch strategic review only adds to the concerns. Graeme Bowler and his team have tried just about everything in the last few years and nothing has worked. Turning outside for help seems to indicate that they have run out of ideas.

Kwik Save's central problem is an old one now. Its once-secure niche as "Britain's number one discounter" is looking increasingly vulnerable. The superstores are encroaching on Kwik Save's territory by offering equally cheap ranges on commodity products. When Kwik Save cut the price of baked beans to 3p. Tesco matched it. And while the superstores park their tanks on Graeme Bowler's lawn, the threat

from Continental discounters grows.

Kwik Save says that the only thing that is not up for grabs in the review is its position as a discounter. The question is how to deliver it. A loyalty card looks unlikely as the company does not have the systems. An extension of the range would increase already-mush-rooming costs. It looks an unenviable position, which is why analysts were cut-ting forecasts yesterday and predicting further falls in the share price, even after vesterday's 9 per cent slump from

468p to 428p.
Yesterday's disappointing results showed the same old problems, with a few new ones thrown in. Pre-tax profits were down 28 per cent to £44.2m. Though sales were up 8 per cent (or 1 per cent like-for-like) costs rocketed by 19 per cent.

Part of that rise was due to the company investing in a new distribution centre, re-writing its computer systems and staff training. And though buying terms have improved, pricing pressure on basic items such as beans, tomatoes and comed beef has hit the gross margin. The margin in the first half fell by 0.2 per cent compared with last year. There was also a warning that the margin would fall further in the second half due to continuing tough trading

Though like-for-like sales are up by 1 per cent since the year end, customer numbers continue to fall after the 3 per cent fall in the first half. The problems have forced the company to rein back its ambitious store opening programme. It will now open only 35 new stores this year, half the planned figure, reducing capital expenditure from £145m to £120m.

The Shoprite stores in Scotland and the North-east that were acquired last year are improving but still made a half-year loss of £3m. Kwik Save shares have fallen from more than 700p last summer to yesterday's 428p. But

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN around five times that of the US market, which was up just 1 per cent. Unilever has trailed its rivals in re-

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Knik Save : at a glance

Market value: £648m, share price 428p

even with analysts cutting full-year fore-casts to £87m, giving a price/earnings multiple of 12, they still enjoy a pre-mium to Tesco and Argyli which is hard to justify. The shares look set to fall fur-

Unilever cleans up its act

Unilever has had a torrid couple of years, highlighted by the group's hu-miliating withdrawal of its "new im-proved" Persil Power washing powder. But trading has hardly been inspiring either, reflected in a share price that has underperformed the rest of the market by 11 per cent since the be-ginning of 1994.

The hope is that things are now going to change, spurred by the root and branch management shake-up being instigated by Niall FitzGerald, set to take over as chairman of the UK side of the Anglo-Dutch group later this year.

three years to come through, so yes-terday's first-quarter results showing a Even Asia managed volume growth of

Five-Year record

Earnings per share (pence)

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Shop numbers

10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £509m reflected actions taken by the previous regime. On the face of it, that looks a respectable result, given that

sales were up only 7 per cent to £7.69bn in the same period.
But the figures were distorted by a number of one-offs. Fingers crossed, there should be no repeat of the £15m charge at Birds Eye Walls to cover the cost of the BSE scare. There was also a £30m adverse swing on exceptionals, more than offset by a change in the treatment of stocks in the Liptons tea business in the US, which added £40m

Stripping that lot out, the picture is more mixed. Past cost savings are starting to show up in Europe, where margins would have been ahead but for the BSE hit, but they still have a long way to go. The US operation is hold-ing its own against powerful competi-tion, but the real potential for Unilever lies in its operations in Latin America ver as chairman of the UK side of the and Asia. Boosted by acquisitions, anglo-Dutch group later this year.

The fruits of that could take another growth of 30 per cent in the latest three

Share price pence

6 months

1100

Unilever has trailed its rivais in re-cent years, highlighted by strong first-quarter sales figures from Nestlé yesterday. Profits of £2.45bn this year would put the shares, up 6p at £12.10, on a forward p/e of 15. It requires something of an act of faith to believe

Unilever will get it right this time, but on balance a risk worth taking. Hold.

City welcomes Maiden placing

The City's appetite for new issues remains undiminished if the warm re-ception given to outdoor-advertising group Maiden is anything to go by. Maiden, which owns 25,000 poster sites around the country, was expected to be worth at least £65m when dealings start next Tuesday. In the event, a strong level of interest from institutional in-vestors ensured the 9.6 million shares

will be placed at 220p, valuing Maiden at a top-of-the-range £86.5m.

The placing will raise £17.9m to repay debts of £37m incurred when chief executive Ron Zeghibe bought out venture capital partners Morgan Grenfell Development Capital last year. Directors will retain about 60 per

cent of the equity after the flotation
On one level, Maiden is benefiting
from scarcity value. Shares in More
O'Ferrall, the only other quoted operator in the sector, have advanced in leaps and bounds on the back of strong growth in UK outdoor-advertising spend, which last year grew by up to 9 per cent. The industry forecasts similar advances this year.

A consolidation of the sector, which

last year saw Maiden buy British Transport Advertising for £1.8m, has led to fewer and more professional players in the sector. Site illuminations, the steady growth in roadside traffic and better audience measurement techniques have also helped. And the increased fragmentation of the television, magazine and radio markets means poster sites could become the only medium capable of delivering mass audiences to advertisers.

How much all this is worth to investors is anybody's guess. More O'Fer-rall, the market leader in the UK, stands on a forward PE of almost 18 times and should command a higher rating thanks to a good track record of organic growth and lower debt levels. Shares in Maiden are tightly priced at 15 times future earnings, but they should still go at a decent premium.

Tarmac set to face the future with a green T

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

Tarmac, the venerable con-14RMac struction group, has spent the past 18 months planning and implementing a gigantic overhaul – of its "exciting new image". This has extend-ed from letterheads to signs TARMAC on building-site helmets, lo-gos on the sides of dump TARMAG

Tarmac

Gone is the 30-year-old "seven T's" logo, which em-ployees thought was old fashioned and redolent of r Tarmac "bricks, road-building and out-dated notions about con-struction". The new logo, the Tarmac sixth since 1910, is in green

trucks, the lot. Identity con-

sultants Sampson Tyrell have been the lucky recipients of

Tarmac's cash for the job.

with a little green "T" at-

sent to Ruth Snell Rainbow

city councillor said: "I may

not have the most average or

won last year and is hosting the next competition, to be held on 18 May in Oslo.

Now the Eurovision sponsor SND, the Nor-wegian Industrial and Regional Development

Fund, is publishing a series of newsletters to spread the word about the country's "innova-

tive enterprise culture." Did you know that

Norway runs courses for Swedes on how to celebrate their national day? That "crisps made of air-dried prawn, cod and smoked salmon are the latest snack sensation in Nor-

way"? No, I didn't think so. Last but not least, Norway is the world's biggest camel exporter. All together now, "Boom hang-a-

bang, boom bang-a-bang, that's how it goes."

Van Gogh, began: "Dear Mrs

Snellrainbow-hallucinogenic-experience." The former York

tached in a golden oval. Getting it down to a T: The changing face of Tarmac A Tarmac spokesman re-fused to say how much the exercise cost, although total implementation will run into run-of-the-mill surname. millions. The company says However, I strongly resent the

the new typeface and symbol "confirm that we are one that this makes me some sort Group, united by a single purpose. It is distinctive and of druggie."

She said she has written to forward looking". I rather like the 1910 logo myself. her MP Hugh Rayley and the Gas Consumers' Council. A British Gas spokesman said: "When the complaint was received the employee was questioned and admitted British Gas is to apologise to a customer whose name it ridiculed in a letter, and has he was responsible. His consacked the temporary employ-ee responsible. The letter, tract terminated immediately.

> The tamplituous saga of Sunday Business, the newspaper launched by entrepreneur

He had apparently regarded

the whole matter as a joke."

almost libellous implication

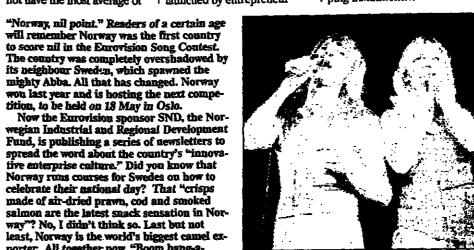
Tom Rubython three weeks ago, continues to be far more enthralling than Brookside. Jason Nissé, associate editor of Sunday Business and former writer for the Independent. among others, has resigned -after just two issues.

Mr Rubython described it yesterday as "an amicable resignation... it's not un-ami-cable". Delroy Alexander, a reporter who came from Investors Chronicle, has also handed in his notice and intends to go to Jamaica to join the Jamaica Gleuner, a newspaper.
Mr Rubython dismissed as

"absolute rubbish" reports that Sunday Business had received new funding from Century 2000, a northern service group. Since the original backers pulled out in the week before the launch Owen Oyston, the socialist millionaire, has provided finance. but that was just for the launch, Mr Rubython said. So was Mohammed Al Fayed, the Harrods boss and potential politician, in the

frame to buy the paper? 'No," according to Mr Rubython. How about rumours that staff had not heen paid? "They have been paid - they wouldn't be here otherwise," he said. Meanwhile Mr Nisse will

have his leaving drinks this evening, just three weeks since the launch. Tune in next week for another gripping instalment...



Abba: Not Norwegian, unlike camel exports

Chief's resignation helps lift Holliday

PATRICK TOOHER

Shares in Holliday Chemicals closed 12p higher at 151p yesterday after the company announced the departure of Hugh as its chief executive and issued

a positive trading statement. Mr Donaldson resigned from the board after indicating he did

agers at two of its operating sub-sidiaries as joint chief executives, to replace him. They will report to chairman Michael Peagram in their new posts.

and inks manufacturer from hands-on management role and free Dr Peagram, who founded not wish to renew his contract the company and combined on its expiry at the end of 1996. the jobs of chairman and chief Holliday has appointed Mark executive, to concentrate on Robbins and Robert Rae, man-strategy and acquisitions.

Mr Donaldson was recruited profits warning which sent the shown "a substantial improve- cent warning, welcomed the

drugs giant Zeneca to take a

seemed to be paying off, but pressure on Mr Donaldson unto a new low of 105p - well below the 195p in-

three years ago. Holliday blamed a squeeze caused by the high costs of raw materials and pressure on selling prices for its own products.

vestors paid when the compa-

ny joined the stock market

pany's annual general meeting.

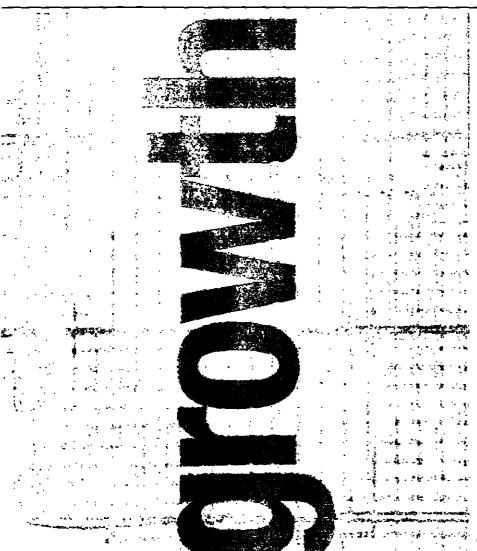
over the depress meni ing performance in the second half of 1995.

"Although margins are not ond half of last year. yet back to satisfactory levels. they are improving, and further benefits will accrue." Holliday said in a statement. It added that while the economy was still un-

At first the partnership But yesterday Holliday struck a certain, the destocking that hit emed to be paying off, but more upbeat note at the comits 1995 sales had finished. Analysts, who had cut fore-

doubtedly grew in January The company said the first casts for this year's profits from when Holliday issued a surprise three months of the year have £24m to £14m following the re-The company said the first casts for this year's profits from prise that trading was well above the levels seen in the sec-

> They added that the improvement reflected measures taken to reduce costs and new products from Holliday's pharmaceutical business in Spain.



Green is fresh grass, leaves and stems and signifies the newness and excitement of spring. With HP colour printing and copying solutions you can say how much your company has grown in green.

HP in the office. A little colour says a lot.

HEWLETT' PACKARD

IN BRIEF

 House prices rose by a seasonally adjusted 0.7 per cent in April, their ninth consecutive monthly rise, Halifax said yesterday. Over the year to April house prices rose by 2.7 per cent, leaving them at roughly the same level as two years ago. Halifax said that if there was another rise in May it would raise its annual growth forecast of 2 per cent, but also warned that the Inland Revenue figures for transactions continue to indicate a fragile market.

• The Treasury launched a public consultation yesterday on its proposal to scrap the legal restrictions on trustees. Instead it is proposing that trustees would be treated as the legal owners of assets, able to invest at their own discretion as long as they satisfy normal requirements of due care. Individuals whose money it is would then come under the protection of the Financial Services

• T&N, the auto and engine parts maker, is to take an £8m charge on the sale of assets in Zimbahwe and repeated its warning that growth will slow in the first part of 1996. Sir Colin Hope, chairman, also said the firm would not appeal a landmark asbestos damages case it lost. The case relates to a factory one of its predecessors owned in Armley, a suburb of Leeds. (Bloomberg)

 George Wimpey, Britain's largest homebuilder, said its decision to focus on homebuilding had been vindicated and predicted that to focus on nomenulumn and been vindicated and predicted that it would post better profits this year than it did last year. Joe Dwyer, chairman, said both Wimpey and Mclean's sales were similar to 1995, although they have improved during the last three weeks. Sales in the US were up 50 per cent from last year, in line with its expectations, and Australian sales were up 30 per cent. Wimpey said integration of Mclean Homes, which Wimpey swapped with Tarmac plc in exchange for its minerals business, is going well (Bloombert) well.(Bloomberg)

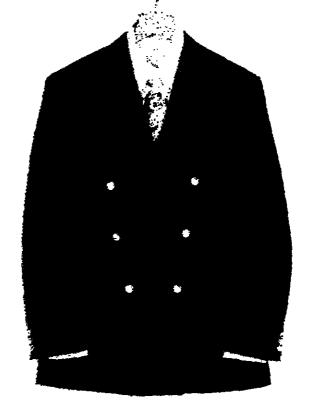
 At least 10 million Chinese will own mobile phones by the year 2000, according to the official Post and Telecommunications Dai-ty. Cellphone subscribers numbered 1.5 million in 1995 compared with 50,000 in 1991. Sales of telecommunications goods, including phones and pagers, is likely to reach £1.7bn a year over the next five years.

 Bank of Scotland cut the annual percentage rate on its Classic Visa and MasterCard credit cards by 2 percentage points to 18.5 per cent, effective from 1 June. It said this will make RBS* card rates as the lowest among the credit cards issued by the UK

COMPANY RESULTS										
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EP\$	Ohrldend						
Bearing Power Intl (1)	24.0m (20.3m)	0.77m (t) 32m)	0 88p (0.62p)	데 (-)						
Bellway (I)	125m (114m)	12.3m (13.8m)	7.4p (8.5p)	2.55p (2.45p)						
Body Storp (F)	257m (220m)	32.7m (33.5m)	9.8p (11.5p)	3.40 (2.40)						
The Hopkinsons Gry (F)	114m (106m)	-3.04m (-0.15m)	-4 19p (-0.27p)	1.3p (1.3p)						
Kwik Save (I)	1,84bn (1,7bn)	44.2m (61.6m)	18.45p (25.3p)	5.95p (5 95p)						
Later-Scan (F)	7.34m (7.13m)	-0.22m (-0.17m)	-1.2p (-0.2p)	af (-)						
Uniterer (Q1)	7.69km (7.19km)	509m (463m)	17 11p (16.04p)	nii (-)						

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This classic blazer is yours free when you spend £135 or more on our extensive range of Sovereign Collection men's suits. It's the smart way to dress and save this spring. Offer available until 6 May.

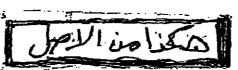


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have to amend legislation.

"If was like coming nome," penaviour or the school directors breached the 1976 Euro-





'The wave of Baby Bell mergers in the US is creating a whole new raft of major telecommunications companies. As in so many other industries,

Britain may well have

to reconcile itself to

the second and third

divisions'

A lost opportunity to join the first division

Do the collapse of takeover talks between Nonesense, says C&W. We never got round British Telecom and Cable & Wireless to discussing price. As always, the truth problems and Power and Power talks between to discussing price. As always, the truth problems and Power and Power talks between their desired to discussing price. As always, the truth problems are should be taken with a mark, for Britain at least, the end of the mega-merger era? BT's brief and less than helpful explanation - that the risks outweighed prospective opportunities—certainly had that feel to it. Combine it with the Government's statement that the golden share in National Power and PowerGen is there to be used (more on that later), and it may well be that we are witnessing the end of the present wave of consolidating mergers in industry, finance and the utilities.

Some mergers, it appears, are just too ambitious and difficult to do, whatever the supposed industrial logic. All businessmen dream of subsuming their competitors to create the dream team, powerful and ready enough to take on the world. But when the practicalities are examined closely enough, it often proves impossible.

In this particular case it was a combination of pricing, regulatory and international partnership issues that finally sank the deal. Rod Olsen, C&W's acting chief executive, describes it as "a fruit cocktail" of problems, many of them so intractable that it made no sense to carry on. While the BT negotiations continued, Cable & Wireless became frozen in time, unable to pursue business opportunities with anyone else.

BT puts a rather different spin on events.

For BT it was not so much the regulatory issues that sank the deal as the difficulty of persuading C&W to agree a realistic price. I tempting to interpret the words of Ian

to discussing price. As always, the truth probably lies somewhere between. Plainly there was a price at which the deal could have been done but it was not one that C&W was prepared to contemplate. Valuing the two businesses for the purposes of merger was in any case made that much harder by the regulatory uncertainty BT faces in its own home market. Investment bankers came to believe they were dealing with a constantly moving

target.
Whatever the truth, it seems a shame. Here was an opportunity to create a company with the critical mass to be up there with the best in the world. The wave of Baby Bell mergers in the US is creating a whole new raft of giant telecommunications companies. As in so many other industries, Britain may well have to reconcile itself to the second and third divisions. BT at least has a fall-back strategy to put it in the first. C&W doesn't even have that, Its new chief executive, whoever that may be, has quite a task on his hands.

Lang performs a double somersauit

nother day, another hopelessly confus Another day, another hopelessly confus-ing message from the printing presses around at the Department of Trade and In-dustry. In as far as it is now worth even at-

its golden shares in National Power and PowerGen appears to put the kibosh on any prospet of a transatiantic bid from Southern Company of Georgia.

The thinking goes something like this: when we decided not to let the two generators buy regional electricity companies last week we thought we'd made it plain that vertical integration was off the menu.

But then you go along in your transit van to Nat Power's registrars and take away 40 boxes full of shareholder information. Obviously what we saying was too subtle. Well here it is with both barrels. The businesses ain't for sale.

The other interpretation, of course, is that National Power is for sale providing the bidder is bold enough to create adequate competition in the generating market by breakmg it into several chunks. True, this is a minority interpretation, but it is perfectly consistent with the double somersault Mr Lang manages to perform in the space of his eight-line statement.

The Government, for entirely understandable political reasons appears to have linked ownership of the electricity industry with its structure by blocking any bids for the two generators – from whatever quarter – until it is satisfied there is "adequate competition in the generation and supply mar-

It might have been simpler, and more houest, to say we don't want any contested bids

bad publicity this side of an election. But then a government supposedly committed to free markets couldn't possibly admit to such a simplistic explanation for using its golden share.

Roddicks give the City the treatment

nits and Gordon Roddick have come up A nita and Gordon Roddick have come up with a new all-over body treatment, spe-cially formulated for the City. First they fla-gellate investors for putting shareholder value above nobler pursuits like the protection of the Amazonian rain forests. Then they sensitise the skin by waving around the idea of taking the business private. And finally, they apply the soothing balm in the shape of a pledge to raise the payout and reduce dividend cover

As a means of bringing a glow to the cheeks, a 55 per cent increase in the dividend beats the plunge pool and a brisk working over with beech twigs any day. But whether Body Shop International has found the answer to its uneasy relationship with the investment community is less obvious. Despite their best endeavours, concepts such as "accelerating our dividend growth over and above the rate of earnings" clearly jar with the Roddicks' pre-occupation with eth-

The Roddicks' explanation for why they

the business private should be taken with a large dose of peppermint foot lotion. The Roddicks are plainly still unhappy running a public company with all the obligations of disclosure that entails. And although Budy Shop's shares rose pleasingly yesterday on the crest of the new-look policy towards shareholders which recognises the importance of dividend growth, there are plainly

problems ahead. The balance sheet may be ungeared and cash flow may be strong but investors may also wonder where the growth is going to come from to help Body Shop deliver, even with the dividend cover cut back. The US market is a mess, not helped by Body Shop's own green credentials being put under the spotlight.

Fewer store openings are planned this year than last and while the potential for international expansion may be "huge", it will take more than a few new outlets in the Phillipines and South Africa to spread the

Roddick gospel around the globe. In an ideal world, says Gordon, it would have been nice to celebrate the company's 20th anniversary with an increase in profits. In the Roddicks' ideal world there wouldn't be any shareholders, either. For the time being the two will have to rub along together until such time as the Roddicks can persuade the banks that a buyout is feasible, or a big brother comes along that can lift the yoke of public ownership from their shoulders.

Flotation boom: Three companies come to the market and find surprising strength

New issues in demand as flops are forgotten

PATRICK TOOHER

Further evidence that the new issues market is back to rude health came yesterday when three companies revealed strong interest in their flotation

"We were a little surprised," admitted Ron Zeghibe, chief executive of the outdoor advertising group Maiden, which is joining the main stock market next week. "Demand for our shares has been pretty exceptional."

The new issues market has been in the doldrums in recent years after a number of spectacular stock market flops, most notably the computer service group McDonnell Information Systems (MDIS) and the aircraft components manufacturer Aerostructures Hamble.

But, encouraged by a buoyant stock market, investors have returned to the sector with interest in recent months.

Maiden, which owns 25,000 poster sites around the country, was expected to be worth at least £65m but a placing price of 220p announced yesterday will value the company at £86.5m when dealings in the shares start next Tuesday.

The placing will raise £17.9m to repay debts of £37m incurred when Mr Zeghibe bought out venture capital partners Morgan Grenfell Development Capital last year.

The biopharmaceutical group Vanguard Medica, the largest of the companies to reveal flotation details yesterday, also got a friendly reception in the City. Vanguard said its plac-ing of 11 million shares at 450p was several times oversub-

Estimated net cash proceeds from the placing were around £46.5m - some £10m higher than originally expected.

The new capital from the placing, which values Vanguard at £111.5m, will be used to fund research of existing compounds and the acquisition of new compounds.

Vanguard is building a portfolio of new drug candidates through licensing and collaborative agreements. The company has an existing product line of five compounds, including treatments for migraines and in-flammatory conditions. Trading in the shares is also due to begin on Tuesday.

Undoubtedly the highestprofile share launch came in the shape of the lingerie and nightwear specialist La Senza.

It is joining the junior Alternative Investment Market via a placing of 13.3 million shares at 150p each, valuing the compaat over £50m and raising ny at over £50m and raising £19.4m. That compares with the £15m La Senza originally hoped to raise to fund expansion to more than 152 outlets over the next five years, compared with



the 22 it has now. La Senza plans to roll out its premium brand, which is pitched above Marks & Spencer, the dominant player in a British lingerie mar-

ket worth almost £1.5bn. La Senza occupies a similar niche to Knickerbox, but the latter is a kiosk operation with

smaller stores concentrating on bras and knickers whereas La redesign the range and broad-Senza offers a wider range of fashion items.

·Competition in the sector is expected to hot up. Last year, Sheffield entrepreneur Stephen Hinchliffe's Facia group bought the Contessa chain of women's

en its appeal beyond women

The La Senza concept was developed by Suzy Shier, a quoted Canadian company which launched shops in the UK at the end of 1994.

Surge in US growth puts Fed on rate alert

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

Undeterred by a ferocious winter, government shutdowns and the worst strike at General Motors in a quarter of a century, the US economy expanded far more strongly than expected in the first quarter. The news is an election-year boost for President Clinton, but a signal that the next interest rate move by the Federal Reserve may be an increase rather than a cut.

According to provisional figures from the Commerce Department yesterday, gross domestic product grew by 2.8 per cent, far more quickly than the feeble 0.5 per cent recorded in the last three months of 1995. The strong performance suggests that current forecasts of a bare 2 per cent growth for the year - the IMF last month predicted 1.8 per cent expansion - are decidedly on the conservative side.

been across the board, led by a surge in consumer spending, up 3.5 per cent, and a 12 per cent jump in fixed corporate investment. The inventory reductions by business which braked the economy in the last part of 1995 also seem to be over, analysts said.

Without the severe weather, including the record blizzard which shut down the North-east for a week in January, and the government lay-offs caused by the protracted budget dispute, growth would have been 0.2 per cent higher still, the Commerce Department estimated.

In a further sign of better times ahead, factory orders also rose strongly in March - by 1.5 per cent, almost double what had been expected by Wall Street. For the seventh month run-

ning, US industry's backlog of unfilled orders rose, by 1 per cent during the month. For President Clinton the

a perfect moment. Not only will it strengthen the White House case that the economy is in capable hands as the election approaches, but should also help to dispel public anxieties over jobs and corporate downsizing.

The one potential area for worry is inflation. While consumer prices are advancing at a modest 2.5 per cent or so, the implicit GDP deflator rose 2.1 per cent in the first three months, up from 1.8 per cent in the last quarter of 1995.

Most of the acceleration reflected a temporary jump in energy prices, but the Fed will be none the less watchful for

At the very least, a fourth successive cut in short-term rates now looks out of the question. The overall level of economic activity is going to get people taking about a Fed tightening," Steve Ricchiuto, financial economist for Barclays de Zoete Weld, commented

British Gas set to cut more than 250 jobs in research

PETER RODGERS

Business Editor

British Gas is set to cut more than 250 jobs in its research and technology laboratories.The company is expected to say the move to cut costs and increase efficiency is a prelude to a new drive to gain international contract research work in the gas industry.

A more independent role for the research and development centre would be consistent with British Gas's plans to demerge next year into a transmission and exploration business and a separate supply

company, both of which would be customers for research.

The main research body is the Gas Research Centre at Loughborough, which develops new technology for British Gas's own use, but it is also a commercial enterprise in its own right, selling research services to other companies.

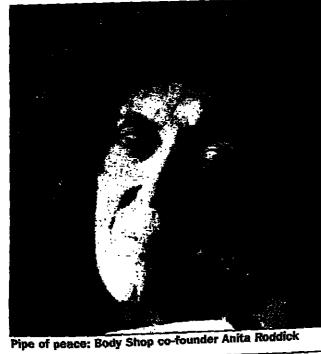
The £100m Loughborough centre was opened in 1994 and a year later won a Royal Society of Engineering award for the development of a new ultrasonic gas meter, the only organisation to have won this three times. It claims to be the technological and scientific leader in the in-

ternational gas industry. Last year British Gas spent £66m on world-wide research and development, a reduction from £75m in 1994, £80m in 1993 and £89m in 1992.

This covered work on future

gas supply, such as seismic studies, security of supply, cost reductions, energy-efficient heating for houses and research on gas-fired air conditioning systems. British Gas's technologists are also responsible for research on safety, the improvement of operational techniques and preservation of the environment.

Industry View, page 23



Body Shop pledges higher payout

NIGEL COPE

Body Shop International took the first steps towards improving its relations with the City yesterday when it announced plans to increase dividend payments to shareholders.

The move is an attempt by founders Gordon and Anita Roddick to offer the pipe of peace to City analysts and institutions that have been frustrated by Body Shop's underperformance and apparent discomfort with the demands of being a public company.

It comes just months after the

Roddicks abandoned plans to the group's environmentally take Body Shop private, a step that would have enabled them to give more money to environmental causes rather than distribute profits to shareholders. To some extent this is an at-

in the dividend for the year to March, Mr Roddick promised to increase the dividend faster than earnings over the next two years. The shares rose 19p to 179p on the news.

Commenting on the new pol-icy, Mr Roddick said: "Ques-tions are often raised as to whether taking a socially respousible approach is consistent with delivering shareholder val-

ue. We have no doubt that it is." Body Shop's head of investor relations, Angela Bawtree, said the company was trying to maintain a balance between conscious principles and the interests of shareholders. "Clearly that balance had tipped too far away from shareholders.

tempt to redress that balance." The company admitted that its dividend yield had been poor and its share price had underperformed the market.

The dividend announcement came as Body Shop reported a 2 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £32.7m with the Body Shop stores in the US continumg to struggle.

Stripping out the contribution of new stores, sales in America fell by 6 per cent last year due to intense competition and the low level of awareness of the Body Shop brand. "Perhaps we haven't been marketing the way we should," Ms Bawtree said. Though sales have continued to fall since March and are down by 6 per cent, she added that Body Shop had increased spending on promo-

stores rather than through advertising.

Body Shop has 273 stores in America but will open only 14 more this year as it tries to improve the performance of existing outlets.

The performance in the UK stores was better, with sales up slightly but profits flat. The Body Shop direct concept is performing with home delivery offered in 140 of the 252 UK stores. Only five new UK outlets will open this year. Body Shop has also abandoned plans to start an in-store radio station, saying it would be too expensive.

Asia continues to be the growth market, with the 170 stores lifting like-for-like sales 15 per cent. The increased div-

UK would be some 2 per cent

lower, though sales in Europe

were 5 per cent up.

Laura Ashley strikes fragrance deal



Laura Ashley, the clothing and furnishing retailer, has struck an exclusive workfwide licensing agreement with L'Oreal for the French cosmetics company to develop and sell fragrances, tolletries and skincare products under

the Laura Ashley name. Ann iverson, Laura Ashley's chief executive (above), said: "It is a perfect partnership and they give us the advantage of worldwide distribution and considerable

marketing expertise." The products will be sold not only in Laura Ashley shops but through drugstores, department stores and French hypermarkets. News of the deal lifted Ashley's shares almost 3 per cent to 215p.

GUS shocks City with its first profits warning Home shopping sales in the

NIGEL COPE

Great Universal Stores, the mail order grant, stunned investors yesterday when it issued its first profits warning since coming to the stock market in 1964. It blamed lower sales in its home shopping division caused by weaker demand, higher paper costs and the

unseasonal weather. Though the warning was mild, it surprised City analysis who have come to rely on GUS as one of the market's steadiest, if unspectacular performers.

John Richards of NatWest Securities said: "It is only a modest adjustment but it is a shock coming from GUS. The whole idea of GUS is that it is a stock that allows you to sleep at

Another analyst said: "It is unprecedented. These things just don't happen with GUS." The shares fell 30p to 687p. The company warned that

market expectations of its profits were too high and that its the market would appreciate us 1996 indicated a 3.5 per cent inits were too high and that its profits for the year to March would be between £578m and £581m. This was 2 per cent lower than the consensus forecast of £595m.

The company insisted that its first ever trading statement was not a "warning" but a "clarification". Richard Pugh, chairman of the group's home shopping division, said: "It is not 1995's £560m. any sort of warning. We saw

He added that, barring un-foreseen circumstances, GUS would still report as 48th consecutive year of increased profits when it reports its results in July. Even the lower profits of £578m would be higher than The company said unaudited

clarifying the position. Some an- crease in group sales with conalysis' forecasis had run rather sumer and corporate finance advances up 5 per cent. The home shopping busi-

ness has seen demand affected by a "cautious and selective approach from customers", as well as the unseasonal weather and higher paper and printing costs, which had made the group's catalogues more expensive to produce.

Other main trading divisions in the group, such as the Burberrys chain, should show a "satisfactory improvement" in profits, the company said. The company has also collected a lower level of VAT. In previous years the company has received interest payments on VAT over1,11

Latest Whitehall shocker puts skids under generators FT-SE 100 3776.4 -29.6 FT-SE 250 4537.7 -2.4 FT-SE 350 1914.1 -11.8 SEAQ VOLUME 924.1m shares, 33,101 bargains

Gilts Index



Power shares suffered yet another Whitehall shock. Generators National Power and PowerGen slumped once it during trading shares could

510p. Since Southern Company, the US group, disclosed its ambitions towards NP the

shares have fallen from 605p. The highly-charged decision destroyed a stock market sults from the Kwik Save food discount chain failed to rattle

If the BT bombshell - the end of merger talks with Ca-ble & Wireless - had appeared became known the Government intended to hang on to its "golden shares", which, in effect, kills hopes of hostile takeover bids.

NP fell 32p to 527p and PG 12p to 536p; both touched 510p. Since Southern Common. how desperate BT is for a Ca-

ble-style merger. Cable rose 3.5p to 524p and, after initial uncertainty, is likely to strengthen on takeover hopes. The FT-SE 100 index ended rally. It had, without much conviction, overcome worries about the local election results and today's US payroll figures. Even worse-than-forecast results and today's US payroll figures. programme trades helped lift Footsie 23.4; so the downturn



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter

with the sort of yield reserved for the most highly speculative share, is the third blow electricities have suffered in less than 18 months.

The Littlechild debacle in January last year sent the sec-tor into a spin and last mouth came the surprise block on the generators' bids for two distributors. The decision to make the

chances of the cash-rich duo in-dulging in generous dividend

the belief the Government's actions could encourage overseas predators. London gained 13p

touched 600p, closing up 9p at 590p as stories circulated of a bid, with France's Société Génerale and Germany's Allianz,

generators bid-proof will almost certainly reduce the Ladbroke, the betting Ladbroke, the betting and hotel group, had another high turnover session although the

Kwik Save 40p to 428p. Argos, after a bright start which took after a origin start which took
the price to 667p, relapsed to
648p, down 1p. It is said its offer for one of the Signet jewellery chains has been turned
down; Signet fell 3.25p to
26.75p. Body Shop International gained 19p to 179p on
the 55 per cent dividend increase.

British Airways rose 4p to 524p. Reports that orders for Commercial Union, the in-surance group, recaptured takeover fever. The shares seen as reducing rights issue

Regal Hotels made a strong return. Suspended at 44p since January when it opened talks to buy the White Hart hotels chain the shares stretched to 56p in busy trading. The con-vertibles, offered at 100p, went

paid £120m for 60 White Hart BHP, the Australian giant,

ture outside the property in-dustry. Mr. Johnson would

join the board. change offer with Brightstone shareholders representing 14.4 per cent accepting. CNC said

properties, increasing its chain is to continue to explore the Chapare oil field in Bolivia, Ramco Energy, with-oil and gas interests in the former Soviet Union, firmed to 595p as Hendetson Crostiwaite placed 960.000 shares at 5020. Brightstone Properties had an eventful time. It announced a consortium inchesional and a consortium inc an eventful time. It announced start drilling there in the next a consortium, including the few months. Pan Andean ubiquitous Luke Johnson, would subscribe for 300,000 the announcement. They climbed from 12p to 90p in 12 months as excitement has grown about its Bolivian ad-

TAKING STOCK

join the board.

In less than an hour Clarke,
Nickolls & Coombs, once a
sweetmaker now a property
sweetmaker now a property
due to change its name to Electronics Boutique, reflect-ing the identity of its big shareholder, and under new

590 S570 S560	discount chain failed to rattle discount chain failed to rattle sentiment. But the Whitehall block and a surprise profit warning from the Great Universal Stores mail order and retail giant proved too much.	wiped more than 50 points from the index. The generators veto, which	duling in generous dividend payments and share buy-backs. It takes a lot to fuse the market's takeover excitement and in the volatile atmosphere some distributors, such as Loz-	turnover session although the shares only managed a 2p gain to 195p. Barclays de Zoete Wedd was said to have put a 210p valuation on them, GUS fell 30p to 687p and	vertibles, offered at 100p, went to 119p. The White Hart deal rep- resents the first big disposal from the Forte empire since Granada gained control. Regal	per cent accepting. CNC said other shareholders with 29.3 per cent had "signed letters of support". The action left Brightstone up 18p at 120p and CNC unchanged at 7.75p. sales.	
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Tagging may be in Tory election

business

How Brown was transfigured from swan to fall guy

They called him a pig, sneered at his mock-Georgian home and his lifestyle and held him up as the archetype of a greedy capitalist. But despite the constant vil-ification. Cedric Brown made a dignified exit on Tuesday, his last British Gas annual meeting.

The cynical explanation would of course be that a £247,000-a-year pension is cushion enough against the public pain. But there is another rather older-fashioned reason that may be nearer the truth.

Gas men of his generation felt they had a vocation, even a mission, to fulfil, and it was never primarily to make money. Mr Brown was part of that tradition and it may have helped him survive a notoriety few businessmen

can have been forced to experience. Furthermore, the pay rise that led to his public disgrace may well have been a by-product of badly thoughtthrough boardroom manoeuvrings to get rid of him, rather than the result of aggressive personal avarice.

The gas men's tradition to which Mr Brown belongs is closer to pub-lic service than private sector business. His colleagues say that one reason for his relative calm in the face of such hostility is that he has drawn comfort from belonging to a professional community of gas engineers, whose solidarity was a barrier to the cruel media and political world.

It is hard to remember now, but the gas industry and the managers who ran its entrenched regional baronies were the butt of many a bad joke until the late 1960s, for reasons entirely other than greed.

Those great grimy iron gashold-ers, occasionally preserved now as monuments to a sulphurous past. were the symbol of all that was nas-tiest in industry - plants that gobbled

INDUSTRY VIEW PETER RODGERS

coal and spewed out fumes, smoke British industry became swans. Gas and horrible smells that disfigured whole neighbourhoods on the fringes of large towns. That was the gener-

ation to which Mr Brown belonged. Mr Brown were rising through the ranks, came natural gas, a clean, cheap fuel that - as well as displacing the old eyesores - turned those running the coal-gas industry into visionaries, of a kind. A huge opportunity presented itself to transform the industry, and with it the reputa-

men are not the only industrialists with a special tradition that continues to dominate their behaviour, ofion to which Mr Brown belonged.

In the 1960s, when men such as a motivation. The nuclear industry had even odder characteristics, bred, it is said, in the forcing houses of the Windscale (now Sellafield)

and Harwell research centres. One alumnus of Windscale in the 1950s describes it vividly as an isolated camp on the wrong side of the Lake District containing hundreds of

Gas men of his generation felt they had a vocation, never chiefly to make money

tions of those who worked in it. One of Mr Brown's most celebrated predecessors at the helm of British Gas in the nationalised industry days, Sir Denis Rooke, found it hard to conceal the fact that the most exciting event in his professional life had been crossing the Atlantic on the first natural gas carrier, the Methane Pioneer, delivering an experimental cargo of clean fuel to the UK. He talked like an evangelical preacher who has found energy instead of God, pounding the country selling the concept of a cleaned-up economical gas supply system as a public service. With the discovery of gas in the North Sea that could be piped ashore rather than car-

male scientists and engineers and hardly a woman, stressed by social

isolation and sexual frustration. in those days, nuclear power was emerging from the intense secrecy of weapons research into the visionary "swords into ploughshares" era of the 1950s and 1960s. Many of the men who led the burgeoning nuclear industry, and whose influence still hangs over it, spent their formative adult years locked up in what was almost a monastery devoted to the mysteries of the atom.

Such zealotry about the product rather than the business was to be found in varying degrees in many other nationalised industries. To be tracks. No wonder rail privatisation has been attacked by the old guard at British Rail. To be a coal or steel man or electricity engineer carried much the same sense of mission.

This public service attitude should certainly never be sneered at. But its deficiencies have been brutally exposed by 15 years of privatisation, Industries run by engineers who were enthusiasts about their products tended to be dreadfully inefficient. BR built its own engines, even cut and creosoted its own sleepers, in an attempt to control the system from beginning to end that led to ineffi-

cient over-manning.
Sir Denis Rooke at British Gas fought to ensure that that the industry was privatised as a monolith, preserving the nationalised industry structure, and Cedric Brown carried on the fight as chief executive. This policy proved to be a strategic error, and is to be reversed by a demerger planned for next year.

One plausible theory about the events of the last year is that only when the old guard of gas men on the board was reduced to the single lonely figure of Mr Brown did it become possible for the chairman, Richard Giordano, to announce the

break-up of the company. The seeds of Mr Brown's public mominy probably lay somewhere in the machinations surrounding this change of strategy. Mr Giordano, re-cruited from BOC, gradually isolated and removed the old guard on the board and announced Mr Brown's early retirement the day he unveiled the demerger.

So how did that notorious pay rise come about? The likeliest explanation is that it was the beginning of a



Survivor from a lost era: Cedric Brown, who retired at British Gas's annual meeting this week

suade Mr Brown to go quietly and early, while at the same time raising British Gas executive salary levels to the going rate needed to attract the outsiders Mr Giordano wanted to take over running the business. Mr Giordano, famous for years for Britain's highest management salary of more than £1m at BOC, proba-bly had trouble seeing Mr Brown's

new pay as being on the high side. It is certainly true that in the rarefied air of FT-SE 100 boardrooms, Mr Brown's 1993 salary and bonus of £288,000 a year was low, and there was a case for raising it, though not by 75 per cent. Furthermore, the share price was declining and his op-

The oldest trick in the book is to bump up a director's salary in his last years to give a decent pension - and an incentive to depart. This is a practice that new disclosure rules announced this week by the Stock Exchange are aimed at exposing. At the time of the increase, British Gas vehemently denied Mr Brown was on the way out, and indeed he appeared blithely unaware himself that he

would be unable to stay until 65. With hindsight it looks as if his departure was on the agenda of some of his colleagues all along, though exactly who was responsible for the idea of the pay and pension increase to smooth the path is hard to pin

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A more extensive list of Unit Trusts and Managed Runds, ranked by performance within each sector and including ofter prices, is published in Saturday additions of the Independent

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be less controversial than a big cash pay-off for Mr Brown this year. Mr Brown, a committed and carnest executive left behind from a lost era of public service, had been brought late in life - at the time of privatisation - into close contact with the wildly overpaid world of investment bankers and mobile industrial chief executives. Who knows, perhaps it never occurred to him that the rest of us would see what he was offered as over the top. The reality is that as Mr Brown's career drew to a close it was his colleagues' manocuvrings, not personal greed, that laid the groundwork for his notoriety as a fat cat. Mr Brown looks the

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PLAY FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM





GRAND PRIX '96 RACE SCHEDULE

San Marino GP May 5 Monaco GP May 19 Spanish GP June 2 Canadlan GF June 16 French GP June 30 British GP July 14 German GI July 28 Hungarlan GP August 11 Belgian GP August 25 Italian GP September 8 Portuguese GP September 22 Japanese GP

October 13

ormula 1 Dream Team is just like Fantasy Football: you pick and manage your dream grand prix team to score points over the comіля season. Even though the grand prix season

has started, it is not too late to join in: pit your er enthusiasts and you could race.

win our overall 1996 champion's prize, a drive in a Formula One car plus additional orizes for each Your team must comprise three

drivers, a chassis and an engine; your budget is £40 million. Make your selections from the grand

prix shopping list printed below; the only restriction is that your third driver must come from the £1 million

Details of how to enter are given on this page. You can enter a team at any point during the grand prix season but the earlier you enter, the greater your chances of being our overall champion. Remember, there are prizes for the winning Dream Team in each individual grand prix so you can enter a different team for each race,

HOW YOU SCORE

Points are awarded per race to the top six finishers, based on the Formula One World Championship points scoring system (10, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1) but with an extra 10 points awarded to each of the top six finishers. All drivers are eligible to score for a top six finish but can also notch up extra points as follows:

up will collect six points, with five for the second and so on down to one point for the sixth quickest. Drivers score one point for each place they make up over their grid po-

sition. Points are not deducted by losing places. Five points are lost if your driver posts first retirement, four for second

down to one point lost for the fifth re-● If your driver makes the quickest pitstop (from the entry of the pitlane to

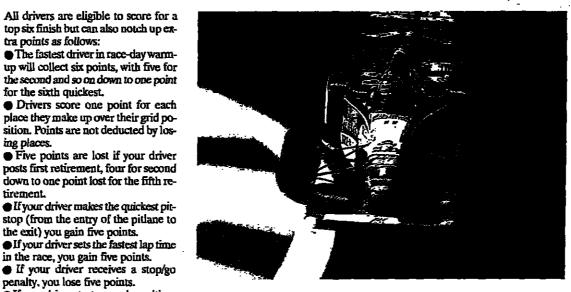
the exit) you gain five points. If your driver sets the fastest lap time in the race, you gain five points. If your driver receives a stop/go

penalty, you lose five points. ● If your driver starts on pole position, you gain five points.

• The Independent will name a Driver of the Day after each race for a particularly impressive performance, worth five points.

 Non-qualification for a grand prix loses you two points. If a driver is on the FIA's published starting grid but fails to take the start, no points are lost. Drivers removed from the results for any reason lose all points gained that weekend. Any driver not competing in a grand prix weekend

scores no points. Chassis score and lose points in the same way as drivers for a top six finish or any early retirement. The score is based on the first chassis home of that particular manufacturer. Likewise, only the first chassis retirement will count if they are both among the first five to retire. • Engine rules are the same as the chassis rules, without the retirement



DREAM TEAM TOP PRIZE

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points at the end of the Grand Prix Championship season will win our top prize - a drive in a 650bhp F1 car. You will be flown to the AGS team's training school in the south of France for the most exhitarating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides all the racewear and instruction you will need for the day

SAN MARINO GRAND PRIX PRIZE

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points following the San Marino Grand Prix will win a VIP trip for two to the French Grand Prix on 30 June.

European Grand Prix Prize Winner Congratulations to Andrew Pike from London with his team AWP Grand Prix Racing. He has won our trip for two to the Spanish Grand Prix on June 2.

HOW TO ENTER

Choose your Dream Team from the shopping list on this page. Remember, you must choose three drivers (the third from the £1 million section), one chassis and one engine. You must not exceed your budget of £40 mil-

You will immediately be asked the enuestion: How many races are there in this year's Formula One World

it by ringing 0891 891 805.

Give your team a name and register

Championship? To enter your Dream Team details you can use one of two methods.

Method 1 uses a tone phone that lets you key in the code numbers of your driver, chassis and engine choices. The computer will check that your team falls within budget and is

Method 2 uses a non-tone phone and give your details verbally. A budget check is not possible using this method. When you have registered your

Dream Team, you will be asked to predict the number of points this year's champion will notch up over the year. In case of a tie at the end of the season, the nearest figure to the champion's points will win the top prize. In the event of a further tie, the team that registered first will win.

Once you have registered your team you will be asked for your name, address and telephone number. Your team selections plus your personal details will be played back to you and, when you confirm that they are correct, you will be given a PIN number.

This is confirmation of your entry and will enable you to access the score checking line. There is no limit on the number of

teams an individual can enter, but only one team can be registered per call.

CHECKING YOUR SCORE You can check your team's position at

any time by calling 0891 891 806 and quoting your PIN number. If you want to know the individual driver, chassis and engine scores from the most recent race, call 0891 891 807. This line will also list the Top 50 Formula One Dream Teams.

 All telephone calls are charged at 39r per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at allother times, with a typical call to secure your entry lasting between five

and sevenminutes. 2. The deadline to be included in a particular race is midday the Friday prior to that race.

3. The judge's decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into and there is no cash alternative for prizes. 4. Employees of Newspaper Publishing Plc, Haymarket Publishing Ltd and all associated companies and their families are incligible.

5. Entrants must be 18 or over and residents of the UK or the Irish Repub-

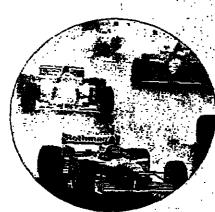
6. To be eligible for the main prize, you must hold a current driving licence, be no more than 1.95m tall and weigh no more than 220lbs. 7. All scores will be worked out ac-

cording to the official FIA time sheets produced at the meeting. The values stated for drivers, engines and chassis bear no relation to real life. 8. In the event of a tie for the Dream

Team Top Prize or for any of the individual race prizes, the team that registered first will win. 9. For lost PIN numbers, call 0891 891 808. Helpline: 01275 344183.

16. The Top 50 Teams Line, lists the top 50 teams from the last race. Both the Team Position Check Line and the Results & Top 50 Teams Line will be updated at 2 pm on the Monday following a race.

Make your selection from the Grand Prix Shopping DRIVERS



£25m 1 M Schumacher 2 J Alesi 3 D Hill 4 G Berger E18**-**19 L Badoer 5 D Coulthard 6 E Irvine 7 J Villeneuve

B M Hakkinen 9 H H Frentzen 10 M Brundle 11 R Barrichello 12 J Herbert

13 M Salo 14 P Lamy £4m 15 P Diniz 16 U Katavama 17 J Verstappen 18 0 Panis ₽3m

20 R Rosset 21 A Montermin £2m 22 G Fisichella 23 V Sospin* 24 T Marques* 25 F Lagorce* 26 H Noda*

28 M Blundell* 29 J-C Bouilion* 30 K Brack* 31 K Burt* 32 E Collard* 33 N Fontana* 34 D Franchitti* 35 N Larini* 36 J Magnussen* 37 A Prost* 38 G Tarquini*

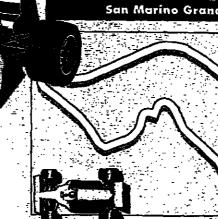
*Not competing in

but may compete

47 Tymell the San Marino GP,

49 Minardi 40 Benetton 41 Williams £18m 42 Fenan £15m 43 McLaren 44 Sauber 45 Jordan £10m 46 Ligier

50 Forti



San Marino Grand Prix, Imola

£15m 53 Mercedes £12m 54 Peugeot 55 Mugen **£8m** 56 Ford V10 57 Yamaha **£4.m** 58 Hart £3ar 59 Ford Zetec VS

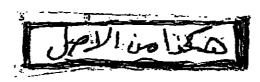
52 Femari

27 T Inque* DREAM TEAM registration: 0891 891 805 ENTER TODA

OTEAM POSITION CHECK LINE: 0891 891 206 O RESULTS & TOP 50 TEAMS LINE: 0891 891 807

P2.s a onte only enrolment fee of £9.50 maked if you join by Direct Debit, Cars registered | "It % before 31.7:87 are subject to additional fee of £12.50. Prices valid until 6/5/90. | She S8id

"It was like coming home," behaviour of the school direction of the school dir



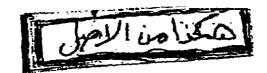
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MANILYON

1046A BOSHAS

Stoculus in



NEWMARKET

4.15 SPILLO (nap)

4.50 Ta Rib 5,20 Miss Pravda

GOING: Good.

STALLS: - 2.35 7 3.40 far side; remainder - centre. DEAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Right-hand course with 1m2f straigh.

Recognite is SW of from on A1304. But link from Combridge and Newmarket stations. ADMISSION: Clob 114 (16 to 25-year-olds 18); Grandsand & Paddock 110 (16 to 25-year-olds 18); Grandsand & Paddock 110 (16 to 25-year-olds 18); Sliver Ring 13. CAR PARK: Members 11; remainder free.

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: H Ceell - 52 winners from 248 runners at a ratio of 21.4% giving a return to a 51 level stake of -513.46; J Cooden - 51 winners, 343 runners, 14.9%, -572.99; E Harmon - 44 winners, 517 runners, 8.59%, -5208.75; B 1915 - 52 winners, 263 runners, 12.1%, -5106.45; L Constant - 30 winners, 263 runners, 12.1%, -52.65; M Stoute - 28 winners, 288 runners, 9.71%, -5106.80; J Danlop - 27 winners, 254 runners, 10.1%, -520.75; B 1915 - 103 winners, 480 rides, 22.4%, +51.76; L Dettort - 18 winners, 422 rides, 13.8%, -5140.23; W 2 Swinders, -54 winners, 371 rides, 14.6%, -526.7; W Carrens - 49 winners, 456 rides, 10.7%, -569.52; M Roberts - 45 winners, 396 rides, 11.4%, -5117.22; M Sills - 33 winners, 310 rides, 10.5%, -540.72.
BILINERERS FREST TIMES None.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Golden Touch (4.16) wan at Kempion less Manday. LONG-DETANCE EUNNERS: Tissue Of Lies (4.16) sunt 200 miles from M Johnston's Middleham scable is North Voristhire.

200 NGK SPARK PLUGS ARLINGTON MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS E) £7,000 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £5,254

HANGOVER SQUARE (1.4) (Bob Lakerson) R Henson 9 1... DAME: LAKER (1.5) (A.) Moreon) P Cole 9 0 ... GRESSATRE (2.1) E R Moteroneled (C Dwy 8 11... GROVEFAIR LAD (Constan plc) B Meeten 8 11...

MARGICAL TIMES (ACL) (Ask Lynn Bell R Book 8 11.

NEON DESON (18) (Big) (Bigs L) Ward S Williams 8 11.

NEON DESON (18) (Big) (Bigs L) Ward S Williams 8 11.

THEE CHAI TELL (6) (Deren Cort) C Musey 8 11.

MARCH STAR (18) (6 M Cobey 1 Toller 8 10.

LATH MASSIER (E John Penyl R Hamon 8 7.

MESS BARCELIONA (Beneral Str Geoffer) Howlen M Polysee 8 6.

SUPPRICAL (The Caleboorn Racing Scotety) D Essorin 8 6.

— 13 darigned — BETINNC: 2-1 Dame Laura, 11-4 Rangbuer Square, 4-1 Magical Tomos, 8-1 March Star, 8-1 Ockar, 10-1 Lafin Maske, 34-1 Separah, 18-1 Neon Delos, 20-1 others 1998: Forence 2 8 7 Emais D'Gorman 14-1 (W O'Gorman) 8 nm

FORM GUEDE

2.35 ROYAL MAIL ANGLIA HANDICAP (CLASS C) £15,000 added 3YO 7f Penalty Value £9,600

FORM GLEDE

3.05 SUNLEY NEWMARKET STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed) £20,000 added 3YO 1m 2f Pen Value £12,652

– a geometi – BETTING: 5-4 Clover Cliche, 7-4 Mick's Love, 9-2 Buhamian Knight, 11-2 Russocz, 33-1 Queida 1995: Prescuing 3 8 11, L Detton 1-2 () Gosdan) 4 ran

FORM GUIDE

CLEVER CLICKE, 1-2 when making his debut at Nottingham three weeks ago, duly obli-ed though not without giving his supporters some heart-stopping moments. Pat Eddery se tied Clever Cliche well off the pace and the coll was caught flat-footed when Haf's Rel quickens to lead over two out. However, the handsome son of Danahall quickened in tramendo.

to lead over but out. However, the handsome son or benefit autherned in tremenous style to get up by a neck in the dying strides – the pair six langits clear. Clears (Cities, who was supplemented for the Derby for £8,000 before Notingham, represents his stable in preference to the highly rated Dustywarbs and is posed to foldow up. His sports the colours of Nam Allan, who won the 1984 St. Lager with Commische Run. Mick's Love and Baheenlan Kelight are other Derby entrants under orders here. The former comes here undefeated after tho rates last season – at Haydock and at Newbury, where he took the Haydres, harden and Clarke Stables, a race which here thrown up future stars in Shergar and Rainbow Quest, while Shahrastani was just beginn in it. Trained by Mark Johnston then, he now represents Certifichen and here without in Dutter. Barbornan Knight was a Commission is useful.

wereing at Lingfield, ramking second twice and finishing third to World Premier in the Che-sham at Royal Acott, Garpe in defeat when namowly beaton by Ramonoux, in the Third Cae.

return, Dawd Loder's colt can turn that around with a 3th adventage and selections CLEVER CLICHE

Quast, while Shahrastani was just beaten in it. Trained by Mark Johnston then, he now resents Godolphin and has wintered in Dubai. Baharnian Kniight was a correstent juw

Golden Pond, who have had the ben-

efit of an outing this year, might pose

SIS RACING

Right-hand undulating course with pear-shaped loop.

Racecourse is N of town on B7071. Hamilton West station (service from Glasgow) Im. ADMESSION: Chib 5 12; Grandstand and Paddock 57 (54 for QAPs, disabled & students, 510 for couples);

BLINGERRO FIRST TIME: Porest Boy (5.00). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Walworth Lady (3.30)

2.15 MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,800 added 270 filles 5f

2.45 LOCH GOIL LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) 53,450 added 5f

ied under-10s free all enclosures. CAR PARK: Free.

16-1 Courting Dangler 1995: Royal Rebulle 3 8 6 Pat Eddery 5-1 (R Charlton) 9 san

200 Dame Laura

2.35 Welville 3.05 Ramooz (nb)

Riyadian to cool Godolphin fervour

The average racing mind is not noted for its openness, but perhaps, as the Millenium approaches, we are growing just a little more liberal. Five years ago, the idea that the two main races at Newmarket this afternoon might be won by horses which had spent the winter in the Middle East would have seemed laughable. In 1996. however, the only surprise is not that such a thing is possible, but that everyone accepts it as part

of the natural course of events. Mick's Love, in the Newmarket Stakes, and Moonshell, last year's Oaks winner, in the Jockey Chub Stakes, will give British racegoers their first sight of the Godolphin team this year, and what few hints there have been so far imply that their runners are every bit as fit and healthy after their winter in the sun as in seasons past. Mark Of Esteem. Godolphin's representative in the 2,000 Guineas tomorrow, started to shrink in the ante-post betting from the moment his plane touched

down. From a general 10-1, he former. Clever Clicke (3.05), by was 8-1 before he retrieved his luggage, and as short as 6-1 by the time he reached customs.

Should either of today's principal Godolphin runners succeed, the run on Mark Of Esteem will turn into a headlong charge. While both will go to

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Flash in The Pan (Hamilton 4.30) **NB: Touch Silver** (Newton Abbot 1.50)

post with realistic chances, they also face rivals who should have the beating of them. Moonshell is worth opposing under her Group One penalty, and the choice here is Riyadian (next best 3.40). Paul Cole's coli had an unhappy run in the Derby last year, but returned to win two back-end races before running second to Spectrum in

more suitable 12 furlongs today, he will be very hard to beat. Mick's Love was the con-vincing winner last year of a conditions event at Newbury which

the Champion Stakes. Over a

Lottery hits Levy revenue

Tristram Ricketts, chief execu- to competition from the Lottery tive of the BHB, yesterday described the Levy Board's enue of £5.1m. That necessitates provisional 4.7% cut in its prize- a provisional allocation of prizemoney contribution for 1997 as

"a matter of grave concern". The Leny Board's chairman, Sir John Sparrow, said that the work itself out after it has been decline in off-course betting in existence for one and a half turnover - attributable largely to two years," Sparrow said.

- had produced a deficit of revmoney for next year of £28.5m, £1.4m down on 1996. "Hopefully the effect of the Lottery will

contrast, has won only a Nottingham maiden, but he did so despite finding trouble in running, and shortly after being supplemented to the Derby for £8,000. If Henry Cecil thinks he is worth that sort of outlay, who are we to argue.

Ladbrokes certainly seem to concur, quoting Clever Cliche at a very respectful 14-1 for the Derby, but such hefty late-en-try fees might soon be outmoded if Epsom racecourse get their way. The executive would like to introduce a "wildcard" entry scheme for the Derby, which would allow one horse each year to run in the race even though his trainer had omitted to enter him - last year, for instance, Pentire might

have been a popular choice. The proposal seems to have come as a surprise to the British Horseracing Board, however. "This is news to me," John Smee, responsible for race planming, said yesterday. "This would need a lot of discussion as it is a whole new concept." Translation: don't hold your breath.

Ante-post betting would surely suffer if such a system were introduced, with punters reluctant to get involved when a new favourite could appear just before the race.

Some would argue that anything which discourages antepost betting must be in the backers' favour and any spare cash today would be better invested on EXPENSIVE TASTE (nap 2.35). Michael Stoute's filly may prove to be above handicap company, and has surely been let in a few pounds light.

NEWTON ABBOT HYPERION

1.50 Touch Silver 2.25 Allo George 2.55 Rolfe 3.30 All For Luck 4.05 Daily Sport Girl 4.40 Air Shot 5.10 Dacelo

GOING: Soit (Good to Soft in places).

Lell-hand, sharp, rounce with short run-in.

Expectourse is north of fown on A380. Newton Abbot station a rule sway ADMISSION: Tattersalls S6.50; Course 54. Accompanied under-16s free. CAR PARK: On rule \$1.50, remainder free.

SIS RACING

BLINKP.RRD FIRST TIME: None,
WINNRES IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS; None,
LONG-DESTANCE RUNNERS; Maltinshim (4.05) & The West's Asleep
14. 3(1) sept. 190pa from J Flitch-Heyer's Lewes stable in E Sussex.

1.50 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,450 added 2m 1f **eus** 5 11 0...

Alleman: 10st True hitsp seligits: Angle Highway 9st 11th, Stay Happy 9st 10th, Guiten Sta Sth, Tudor Flight Sai Sth, Station Express Sai Sth, Venn Sta 1th, BETTRING: 5-2 Touch Sheer, 4-1 Vallast Tould, 6-1 Till Yach Piyer, 7-1 Ur-

2.25 WICKLOW HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,250 added 2m 5f 110yds

ni oreigni. 10st. True handizap weignis: Mapie Beach 9st 6th. 6: 6-4 Allo Georgie, 9-4 Mingosi Beach, 3-1 Cooline, 5-1 Benjamin ter, 14-1 Mapie Demosr

Limerick maiden hurdle (Class E) 2.55 £3,000 added 2m 1f

SALISBURY

2.00: 1. KING PARROT (C Dogan) 12-1: Janatim 20-1: 3. Desert Caba 40-1: 5. Desert Caba 40-1:

E2.40, DF £178,80, CS1; £218,50, ImaSE £3,219,54, Tro. Not word. 2.30; £1, ER11 GLARE (1 Spoke) 14-1; 2. Honorable Estate 13-2; 3. Zeida Zonk 10-1, 22 cm. 7-2 ke Princess Danielle, 34c, 1, iA Faster, Lambourni, Toter £18,70; £3,70, £1,90, £2,60, DF; £133,20, CSF; £96,89, ImaSE; £891,11, Ino; £207,80, NR; Age Of Bradit;

Realty. 3.00: 1 BSTAIMAL (Paul Eddery) 13-8 fav; 3.00: 1 BSTAIMAL (Paul Eddery) 13-8 fav;

2. Everglades 14-1; 2. Loch Patrick 25-1. 8 ran. 11/4, rk. (E Duniop, Newmorke). Total F2.70; £1.50, £2.70, £4.20, DF: £21.80.

74, 9. (P. Chappie-Hum, Manton). Total: 11.40, DF: 11,50, CSF: (2,36, NR, Roman

hopping)

ANOTHER HUBBLICK P Michols 5 11 1. A P Michols 5 12 1. A P Michols 6 12 1. A P Michols MAKE A STAND (205) M Pipe S 11 1 ______ D Bridgester MAKE A STAND (205) M Pipe S 11 1 ____ D Bridgester MAKE A STAND (205) N Henderson S 11 1 __ R Kevanagh

DE SESTIMAL P. Boles 6 11 1. 34502 ROUFE (NZ) (24) (RF) D Nicholson 6: 060 STEER POWN (43) R Frost 5 11 1

P THE SMANNEER (8) M Boleon 9 11.1 P Hilde US RED IS THE ROSE (27) T Hard 9 10 10. D O'S Bullwar Q2 TOPANISA (28) I Bernard 4 10 10 L Tharvey USDPG BLAZING MIRKELE (27) Mrs R Handerson 4 10 5... D Salber (5) - 16 declared 8ETTING: 5-2 Roite, 5-1 Topings, 7-1 Fabricus Mitoto, Matsai Mer
8-1 Bernstern Bry, 10-1 Double Pendunt, 12-1 others

3.30 WESTCOUNTRY TV HANDICAP CHASE

4.05 CORK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 1f

— 8 declared — Minimum: 10st. True weights: Mainsainin 9st 7th, San Diago Chagar 9st 4th SETTRIC: 2-1 Daily Sport Girl, 3-1 Socialiset, 4-1 Fundating, 6-2 San Diago

Charger, 8-1 Sho Ry, 10-1 Mektashin

4.40 TIPPERARY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,200 added 2m 5f 110yds

-11 dad BETTING 9-4 Air Shot, 4-1 Total

bobs, 14-1 Chrace, 20-1 offers 5.10 DUBLIN INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m 1f

HUSE (43) R Simpson 4 10 3...... K Dempsey (7)

- 16 decimed -

— ,us persons "
2ETTHES: 6-4 Decelo, 3-1 Charle Parrot, 5-1 Silver Tilyne, 8-1 Weekens
Worker, 14-1 Country Tarquin, 16-1 St Amour, 20-1 others

RACING RESULTS

Jacipot: Not won, Poel of £3,208.77 car-ned forward to Newmarket today. Place 6: £1,159.73. Place 5: £180.08. 2 10: 1 SEASIDE II Williams) 11-4; 2. Tito-selection 11-4; 3. Our Kentin 5-2 fex. 5

ran. 2, 5. Uohn Berry, Navmarket). Tota: F22.70; £1.20. £1.90. DF: £3.20. CSF: £9.98. 2.40: 1. MAITEAMOA (C Teague) 8-4 fev;

8 rea. 11/2, d. (E Unarro, wanter 18. 12. 70; £1.50. £2.70; £1.20. DF: £21.80. CSF. £23.01. Inc: £204.70. NR: Ortolan. 3.30; £1. SERIOUS TRUST (S Sinders) 7-2 f.w. 2. Macments 7-1; 3. High Desire 3-3-1 12 rea. 21/2. 12. (Sr. Mark Prescott, Neumarket). Tota: £3.60; £1.10. £3.70. £3.80. DF: £21.10. CSF: £27.87. Incast: £37.69 Inc: £278.70. 4.00; £1.400; £1.400; £1.400; £3.4000; £3.400; £3. 15. 78. Inicast: 22.25. Initial State of the Miller of 9.2 3. Dealer't breader 12.4; 4. Particle 9.2; 3. Dealer't breader 12.4; 4. Milleomay 33.1; 1.6 ran. 31/3, 1/2, 1.11 byroft, Brandsby). Total: £4.70; £1.40, £1.20, £2.90, £10,30. DF: £9.50. CSF. £19.95. Tr. C35C £183,68. Inic. £32.00.

3.40: 1. GEFTBOX (G Ouffield) 15.8 fav; 2. Nobby Barnes 8-1; 3. Merchem 16-1. 15 ran. 8, Int. CSF Man Pressout, Newmorket, Total: £2.30; £1.40, £2.80; £6.60. DF: £15.60. CSF. £19.01. Inic. £224.50. MR Norther Greenvry.

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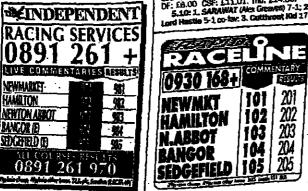
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103 104

1. 40. D. 1. 1.00. CSF. 12.30. CW. Position Gold.

4.30. 1. SIDE NOTE (W Right 4-1, 2. Alterns 40-1; 3. Mails Area Mor 33-1. 16 mm.
3-1 fav Abshib. 19; 39: 14 Creal, Novemaker). Toker £5.40; £3.00, £7.50, £3.70.

DF £102.30. CSF. £142.98. This Not won 5.00: 1. Patrey GRAMES (R Highes) 12: 12. Mercand 4-1 g fav; 3. Dembras 33-1; 12: 2. Mercand 2-1 g fav; 3. Dembras 33-1; 12: 2. Mercand 2-1 g fav; 3. Dembras 33-1; 12: 2. Mercand 4-1 g fav; 3. Dembras 33-1; 12: 2. Mercand 4-1 g fav; 3. Dembras 33-1; 12: 3. S. 13-1 dembras 33-1; 13-1 dembras 3 ed Greening.
4.20: 1 HUTCHES LADY (CAdamson) 33-4.30: 1. FUTCHES LADY C Adamson 33-1: 2. Personimus 10-1: 3. Thee Arch Bridge 6-1. 14 ran. 4-1 fav Ballard Lady. 1. 34. IR Ackellor. Lennahaggord. Tota: £71.10; £12.20. £1.60. £2.90. OF: £930.50. CSF: £338.53. Thesis: £2,154.23. The: Not won. 4.40: 1. SUMLEY SECURE: [P P Murphy] 4.1: 2. Panden 7.4 lar. 2. Old Hash Wind 4.40: 1. SURBLEY SEGURE (P P Murphy)
4.1: 2. Damico 7.4 (av. 3. Old Hassh Wing)
5.1. 9 ran. 7, 3. (M Channon, Upper Lambourn). Tota: 55.50; £1.90, £1.70, £1.50.
DF: £8.00 CSF: £11.01. Trio: £14.90.
5.10: 1. SARAWAT (Alex Greaners) 7.1; 2.
Lord Hassite 5-1 co-tex: 3. Cutthroof Not 17.



2, 13 mm, 5-1 co fevt Fabilico (5th), Bayrak, 3, 11/4 (D hicholis, Thirsk). Total £7,40; £3,70, £1,10, £3,00, DF: £7,40, CSF: 5.30: 1 MANALOJ (R HRs) 12-1; 2 Di-bazur 20-1; 2 Degree 13-8 fav. 18 may. 1, 5 (P Walnym, Lambourn), Tobic £15.00; £4.40, £3.70, £1.70, DF: £737.70. CSF: £4.57, \$7.70, £2.70, £1.70, \$1.70, £48.90. Placapot: £95.20, Quadpot: £29.90, Placa 6: £97.41, Place 5: £35.38, £232.81. Trio: £147.60. WOLVERHAMPTON

£110.30.
2.50: 1, INTRASH (Anthony Bond) 5-1; 2.
Palacogisto Touch 21-4; 3. Wardera 25-1.
10 res. 11-6 fev Cretan Gift (Sur). 3-½, Ind.
(D. Haydin, Jones). Totac £5.92: £1.40, £1.50, £9.70. Dr. £24.80. CSF: £20-29. Text
£119, 80. After a stewards' inquity, placings

The apprentice Peter Murphy was suspended for two days at Hamilton for using his whip with nering Sunley Secure to victory.

SEDGEFELD

Pan 5.00 Forest Boy GOING: Heavy (soft in places). STALLS: I'm & I'm If – inside; remainder – s DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f and 8f

2.20: 1 YOUNG BIGWIG IG Carter) 8-4 tay; 2. Who Told Vicity 10-1; 3. C-Harry 7-1, 11, sar, 44, 2. U Beny, Youte £1.90; £1.20, £3.30, £2.10, Dr. £23.60, CSF: £17.83. This

Uneffered. 3.20: 1 Libertatick Printicess (6 Carter) 10-1; 2. Spitcing 2-1 fax; 3. Miles Officet 5-1 7 ram. 1/4, 1/4, U Berryl. Total: 11.00: £4.70, £3.40. DF: £8.90. CS: £30.81.

won at Ripon hat Saturday. LONG-DESTANCE ECONORES: Swi E30.8.1. IN THE MONEY (Flynch) 7-1; 2. Caston Vestore 12-1; 3. Chartle Bigliosa 6-1, 12 tan. 13-8 for Carol Agen. 3, 74. (R Hollanbed), 17 total: £7.00; £2.70, £2. 408 stilles from G L Moore's Epsons stable in Surrey, Old School House (3.20) & Bever Golf Engle (4.30) has been sent 408 miles from T J

4.20: 1. PEARL ANNIVERSARY U Wester)
7.1: 2. Hever Gotf Diamond 5-2; 3. Shannad 8-1. 11. ran. 3-4 fav Sweet Amoret. Hd. 1. (M. Johnston). Tota: £5.20; £2.30, £2.00, £2.10. DF: £8.60. CSF: £251. Tho: £78.60.
4.50: 1. LUDY SMERREY (Flynch) 5-4 fav. 2. Perifect Brave 9-2; 3. Resuptoine 20-1. 9 ran. Hd. 34. (R. Hollinsheat). Tota: £2.50; £1.10, £2.50, £4.10. DF: £5.90. CSF: £9.65. Thosas: £98.58. Into: £63.30. Placepet: £331.00. Quadoot: £92.50. Place 8: £100.56. Place 5: £60.85.

BANGOR

Run 6.45 the Grand 7.15 Mister Oricy 7.45 Little Martine 8.15 Brambleberry

3.20 BOLLINGER SERIES MEN AMATEUR H'CAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 1m 3f 0014-10 SWENDING STOTES (29) & L. Moure 5 12 0. Mr K Gobin (4) 1 230140 CALDER (RING (4) (20)) L. Bro 5 11 11 OCCUPSE TRANSPORTE LADY (S) COLUMN DOCK 5 LL 6 Sed Mr 5 Series 5 1/31-3 MOONSHELL (6th) (D) (Azistoum Al Malcoum/Endalphon) S fon Suppor 4 9 11 ... L Dectard

3.40 PERTEMPS JOCKEY CLUB STAKES (CLASS A) C4
(Group 2) £50,000 added 1m 4f Penalty Value

BETHINE: 11-10 Riyedian, 9-2 Moonsholl, 6-1 Valley Of Gold, 7-1 Midnight Legend, 8-1 Serroy, 50-1 Communer, Jayash, 14-1 Nahad Walcome, 20-1 Secrement 1996: Only Royale 5 8 11 t Demon 4-1 (t. Cumzni) 7 San

FORM CUIDE

Moonshell, who won the 1995 Cake after a third in the One Thousand Gurneas, bedly injured a rendon at Epsom and was off the course for nine months before finishing a poor
third of four in Dubel in February. With a Group One penalty she has to concede 2to to
RIZADIAN and Paul Cole's coll looks the tilety winner. The first foel of the stable's kitch
Cake winner, Knight's Baroness, Ryadian was unasced at two end, tofowing a debut third,
landed a Kempton mades in Apol bay year, Ryadian might be diffusioning a debut third,
landed a Kempton mades in Apol bay year, Ryadian might be diffusioning a debut third,
landed a Kempton mades in Apol bay year, Ryadian might be diffusioning a debut third,
landed a Rempton mades in Apol bay year. By debut in the Group Three
Cumberland Lodge Stakes at Ascot - Burneej a further four lengths back in third. Ryadian
ran very well over an inadequate rate and a quarter to finish a not-length numer-up behind
spectrum in the Champton Stakes have in Comber and Cole as Neely to produce the Polich
Procederal coll its enough for this, his first appearance since. Burnoj inched out Commoner in the Soptember Stakes at Kempton in which Midelight Legishd, who went off Severaran as though something had gone wrong and finishing bailed off lest of seven. Midnight
Legish defided top weight in a Listed handicap at the big Goodwood meeting last July and
wes furniter-up in the Hardwide and Geothey Freer Stakes. He could pose a threat if back
near his best. Vallery off Gold, who was formerly trained by Andris Father and is now a stabiertiste of Moonshell, landed the Italian Cake and a Group Three at Seart-Coul lest year,
while she was a 10-length that to Pure Grain in the insh Coles and ran Carling to a length
in the Prit Vermeille. She won in Duba in February, following up with a thrif of 14 to 20length scorer Key Of Luck in a £193,000 event there in March and might prefer soft ground.
Jiyesh beer Durayden in good syke at Durcaster on Lincoln day but the selection should
have his measure at Jeve

4.15 MECARS LEASING HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 C4 5-10000 BERNARD SEVEN GOT (Bernard Bust C Britain 4 20 0. FORM CHECK

DAME LAURA had the misfortune to come up against a smart filly in the Queen Mary hope Carmine Lake on her introduction over course and distance 16 days ago and, although drifting from 8-1 to 20-1, shaped with promise to go down three and a half lengths behind that 1-2 chance. Paul Cole's filly an green and is certain to progress. She gets the vote over the coff Magical Tilmes, eithough slowly away on his debut at Doneaster on Uncoin day, led nearing the two-futions pole but hung badly left and found Magistringer a length end a quester too good. For Boss's youngster is by Timeless Times, who was a positic warning tuverile, and Pat Edday, who does well for the stable, is booked for the ride. March Star will be the better for her first attempt when taking the minor position behind Cherny Blossom at Newbury, going on well at the finish, and she ishould like this stiff track. Hangover Squans, an eight-length fifth to a useful debuttent in Daylight in Dubel on her Newbury debus, can also figure.

Selection: DAME LAURA

Bestern lattle more than a length when fourth to Tabriz at Beverley on 30 March on his first outing since October, SPILLO was a 1-3 chance over today's trip at Brighton three weeks ago and never looked in any danger, taking command three furlions out and drawing away to score by 11 lengths. There is clearly better still to come from fues Cuman's lightly raced three-year-old and he can make his first venture into handicap company a winning one. Perhaps Spito will have most to lear from hat-first seeker Golden Toesch, who got up in the challence of the cent is were at Kennero on Moorkey and steep impressed for that, which the shadow of the post to win at Kempton on Monday and goes unpenalised for that, which was in a girl apprentices' event. Willie Carson is in the saddle here. The Mark Johnston-trained Riesue Of Lies, runner-up to Catch The Lights on Equitosis in November, and Encutive victiones on that surface before furning unplaced there les

4.50 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £7,000 added 3YO fillies 7f Penalty Value £5,481 AMAZING BRACE (D A Shekelis) \$ Williams 8 11 ... WELVILLE who got off the mark in a maden at Goodwood (good to soft) on the last of three starts as a two-year-old, took the honours if not the rece when a neck runner-up to Sky Dome on his reappearance over course and distance 17 days ago. Pear Makin's charge made the nursing and went clear at the two-furiong marker but the stone concession to strong-funsing Sky Dome proved just beyond ham and he was besten a head. Welville, with so little mileage on the clock, a bound to progress further and, on marginally more favourable terms, should have Sky Dome's measure this timeend that recent race will have sharpened. Welville up. The selection should again hold soth-placed Rebell County, who was besten the best part of four lengths and has a 4th pull. Warming Trends landed the first three of this sx; userale reces but has not been out since September and netther have Expensive Taste - who justified odds-on favouritism on her Follestone debut in August - and narrow Expern scorer Palack it Black. Pollish Spring, successful over sx furious of this track on her debut at the end of September, is without an outing since a fourth to Thriling Day at Doncesser (Listed) in October - as are Angel Chlimes (a Beverley winner) and Trunnery, who went in at Mounghem in June. Charille Chang's win was on the Lingfeld Equitrack in November and he has not been out since.

O3- ATTENZA (USA) (190) (W J de Rusen) S Walsams & 11....... O DESERT SKUMBER (USA) (UA) (T F Hams) M Bell & 11...... EMBER (Lord Hopesour) L. Cumers 8 11... FATEFULLY (USA) (Maleourn Al Maleourn HANDINGOU 650 (Tony Marten S Woods 8 11 6- LOVE BRIETA (195) (Sheik Ahmad Yousud Ai Sabah) R Harson & 11 ... Dane O'Rielli (3) 1 8 6. LONE BRITETA (195) (Sheik Armad Youad Al Sabah) R Hannon & 11. Dane O'Nelli (3) 12
9 MILITARIDA (K Hay R Armanon & 11. Dane O'Nelli (3) 12
10 0- PASSAGE CREEPPIG (188) (M Baudevel) L Cumers & 11. R Price 1
11 3- ROYAL AMDE (272) D 1 Deed B Hits & 11. M Hits & 11. M Hits & 12
12 SCARPETTA (1951) Lannes Benter (Susan Abbatt Racnyl) J Hits & 11. R Hits & 13
14 SERRINES (223) (Hemston & Hallon B & 11. Pat Eddery 3
14 22- TA RB (18A) (222) (Hemston & Hallon & Dunlop & 11. W Carson 7
14 declared BETTING: 8-4 Frientisty, 7-2 Ta Rib, 11-2 Royal Jacle, 8-1 Selvenes, 12-1 Love Bataria, Mulfishida, 14-1 Passage Ceoping, Scarpetta, 16-1 Amering Grace, Depart Sidemer, Ember, 25-1 others
1995: Mooning't Saurier 3 & 11 W R Semburn 5-2 (E Dunlop) & ran

FORM GUIDE This can be much time lucky for TA RIB, who finished strongly when running Rusherra to 8

length on her debut on the July Course last year in a race which worked out well, Ed Dur-lop's filly following with a third to Story Line at Ascor. Barry Hills, trainer of Story Line, runs rail Jade, who ran as though she would be batter for the race when third (of five) to Alajies at Haydock in August on her only outing so far, She is a full-sister to sta-furiong score. Teald and helf-sister to many winners including Hawaesh and Averb, the dam, imperial Score, is a full-sister to smart speedster Reesin. Pick of the six newcomers might turn out to be be

5.20 NEWMARKET CHALLENGE WHIP (CLASS G) 3YO 1m No penalty value BISM BRANO pins John Van Geest) M Bell 9 0 ________Mit Fenton 1 03-0 MISS PRAVDA (LS) (Lon Howard de Walders) P Walkyn 8 9 ______Pat Editory 2 ~ 2 declared ~

BETTING: 4-5 Bega Bruno, evens Miss Previa 1996: Catamap 3 9 O L Datton 30-100 (I Gostlen) 2 ran FORM GUIDE

BEAU BRUNO, a close relation of smart filly Gussy Marlowe, can make a winning debut with only Misse Prayadia to beat. Pat Eddery teams up with his old biss Peter Wolling on Miss Prayade but the filly, starting a 12-1 outsider, fanished last of three to Shemozzie in a similar race over seven furlongs here last October and she was well down the field at Ripon Selection: BEAU BRUNO

HYPERION'S 2.35; WKLVILLE, a creditable bead runner up to Sky Dome over this af-ternoon's course and distance at the Craven meeting, can turn the tables on a pound better terms. Sixth-placed Rebel County looks held on that form. Charlie Chang and Warming Trends both look interesting prospects, but may be fitter

3.05: RAMOOZ. who beat Rahamian Knight a head at Thirsk. can confirm the placings over the extra two furlongs on 31b worse terms. Mick's Love may need the run.

3.40: RIYADIAN, who ran a superb

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE HANDICAP (CLASS

3,55 C) £10,000 added 1m 1f 36yds

22/1020- TEM PAST SEX (23%) Mergin Werse 4 10 0 ...Deem Mickle 14 10

- 6 decieved -#271992: 2-1 Cilina Vox, 11-4 Samedina, 9-2 Loveycomilloca, 6-1 Ethnic

4.30 HOLY RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 3YO 1.111 £5yds

- 9 declared -

SETTENC: 3-1 Alpino John, 7-2 Dengacos Princess, 9-2 Honer Galf Eagle, 5-1 Danies, 9-1 Potto Horitiero, 8-1 Stant Guest, 19-1 stants

5.00 McKibbin Glimmers Handicap (Class D) £5,500 added 370 1m 65yds

Supporters of Storm Trooper for the 2,000 Guineas received a boost when Heron Island won at Salisbory

esterday. Peter Chapple-Hyam's charge had finished

eight lengths adrift of the Henry Cecil-trained colt in

the Feilden Stakes, but yesterday got the better of Sto-

ry Line by three-quarters of a length. Chapple-Hyam,

who now intends stepping the colt up another furlong for Lingfield's Derby trial.

Spectrum in the Champion Stakes over an inadequate 10 furlongs here last October, had previously trounced Richard Of York by five lengths in the Cumberland Lodge Stakes over today's trip at Ascot, He can make the most of the 2lb be receives from last year's Oaks winner, Moonshell, a big disappointment in Dubai on her only subsequent start earlier this year. Midnight Legend may need the race and race-fit Valley Of Gold looks a bigger danger.

4.15; SPILLO, 11/2 lengths fourth to a mile and 100 yards on good to soft a mile and itulyards on groun or son ground in March, coasted home to land a Brighton median auction maiden by 11 lengths over today's trip of 10 furlongs on firm ground subsequently. Possibly improving and clearly effective on a fast surcapped. Golden Touch, who has shown progressive form on allweather tracks and won on purf at Kempton on Monday, may prove the chief threat.

Custom Made makes running

Equestrianism GENEVIEVE MURPHY reports from Badminton

David O'Connor held the lead for the United States when the first day of dressage for the Mitsubishi Badminton Horse Trials was completed yesterday. He is now hoping that his mount, Custom Made, can prove that last year's elimination in the show jumping at the European Open Championships in Italy was an uncharacteristic lapse.

Custom Made was one of the few to be on exemplary behav-iour yesterday, when the canvas roof of the grandstand kept flapping noisily in the strong wind. O'Connor now holds the advantage over two British riders: Lucinda Murray on Just Jeremy and Helen Bell on Troubleshooter.

Murray missed Badminton last year, having broken her right shoulder blade and wrist in a fall. Later in the year she broke her collarbone ("into three bits") and did not compete again until two months ago.

'I had to wait and see if I still had the courage to be competitive," Murray said. She did not. however, find herself wanting and is now looking forward to tackling Hugh Thomas's 30 solid cross-country fences tomor-

There will be a new British bid to host the 1998 World Equestrian Games (at either Harrogate or Stoneleigh) now that Ireland's last-ditch attempt to retain the event has failed after the withdrawal of Government funding. Germany will ment funding. Germany will also be bidding for the Games.

METSUBJISH BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS (Standings after first day of dressage): 1.

Custom Made (O O'Cornor, USI 40.4 Senalbes; 2 Just Jeremy II II, Murray, GBI 43.2; 3

Taudiseirouter H Bed, GBI 45.2; 4 Alsor Peds
(M Ryon, Aus) 47.0; 5 Crestefield (B Tat.

ND 49.2; 6 Cornsh Face IK Parker, GBI 48.4.

Griffiths signs lucrative Wasps deal

Rugby Union

Mike Griffiths, the Welsh prop. has signed for Wasps in a deal the next three years.

Griffiths, who won the last of his 34 caps in last June's World Cup, is not even a first choice at Cardiff. The 34-year-old made his Wales debut in 1988 and toured with the Lions the following year.
Rob Smith, the Wasps coach

said: "Mike is a very strong scrummager. The laws are changing next season and we are back to serious scrums."

Robert Howley, the Bridgend scrum-half and captain. was last night named Welsh Player of the Year. The outsidehalf Lee Jarvis, who is joining Cardiff from Pontypridd, was named the Most Promising Player of the Year.

Phil Moss has stepped down as Orrell coach after two years in charge and has handed over to Andy Macfarlane. The new man joined the club from Sale as player-coach and made his debut at No 8 in the 29-26 home defeat by Bristol in Orrell's fmal game of the season last

4000-00 HEY UP DOLLY (13) J J O'Neil 4 11 0 __Hir L Corcoran (4) 3 4-00426 ME CHERONSE (22) C Promeon 4 10 9 __Hir Mit Manghton 2 GUINEAS HAMILTON 0000-4 OLD SCHOOL HOUSE (MI) T / Novembri 397. HYPERION - 6 declared idinhrum weight: Ser 7th, True handicap weight: Old School House Set 6th. BETIME: 2-2 Swinging Skeins, 21-4 Wahnotik Lady, 4-1 Calder King, 6-1 Me Cherokee, 7-2 Old School House, 10-1 Hey Up Dolly 2.15 Life On The Street 2.45 Canovas Heart 3.20 **EEKEND** ee 3.55 Sarmatian 4.30 Flash in The

RACING'S GREATEST DAILY **PUBLISHED** SATURDAY

AND SUNDAY

The Sporting Life

Petchey hoping to lay Cup ghosts

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS reports from Newcastle

Tim Henman's illness has placed Mark Petchey in the Davis Cup firing line against Slovenia at Newcastle today; or, as Britain's captain D vid Lloyd prefers, it has given the Essex man "a great chance to put behind him some of the ghosts he's

had in singles". The last spectre was Razvan Sabau, a 17-year-old Romanian ranked below 700, who was twice a set down to Petchey on a grass court in Manchester two years ago but recovered to win the final rubber, completing Britain's most humiliating de-

Petchey's solitary victory in nine Davis Cup singles matches was accomplished in Manchester in 1991 against Thomas Muster - the Austrian claycourt specialist who won his first senior match on grass in a Davis Cup tie in South Africa in February this year, four days before rising to No 1 in the world.

Today, on a fast indoor carpet, Petchey, originally selected for doubles, faces the Slovenian No 1, Iztok Bozic, ranked 216 places below him at No 419. Before then. Lloyd trusts, the big-serving Greg Rusedski will have given his team a winning start against the Slovenian No 2, Borut Urh, ranked No 478.

For tomorrow's doubles, Rusedski has taken Petchey's place alongside Neil Broad - a partnership born in Canada and South Africa - against Urh and Gregor Krusic, who just about jogs the singles comput-

Should the Euro-African Zone Group II tie still be live on Sunday, Petchey contests the final rubber against Urh after Rusedski has played Bozic.

Petchey, while sympathising with Henman, views his promotion as an opportunity rather than an ordeal. "It's nice to get another chance, and I'm looking forward to it." he said. "It's different for me now. I'm coming on the team now as a doubles player and as a No 3 singles player in case someone gets sick. I hope I play to the way I've been practising."

Lloyd hopes so, too, having given his brother, John, the team coach, the task of relaxing Petchey for his return to singles. I think a lot of people watching us practise might think we are not taking it seriously, but we are taking it very seriously," I Lloyd Barker's belated decision for a catch at the wicket that accounted for Craig Spearman. for Mark to feel relaxed, becaus he's a very tight person and in the past has tended to tense up on his serve a bit."

12.50

CRICKET: Yorkshire's openers undefeated as bad weather causes disjointed start to the County Championship Run deluge

for Vaughan and Moxon

DEREK HODGSON

reports from Cardiff Yorkshire 316-0 v Glamorgan

Hours after Yorkshire had confirmed their interest in resigning Sachin Tendulkar, one of the world's best two batsmen Martyn Moxon and Michael Vaughan were threatening the county's record stand against Glamorgan, 323 set 68 years ago by Maurice Leyland and Herbert Sutcliffe, at Huddersfield. Yorkshire will be talking to

Tendulkar about another contract during the Texaco match at Leeds this month. He had mixed fortunes as their overseas player in 1992 but he was then only 19 and homesick; he returns as India's vice-captain, his status confirmed. Yorkshire will feel obliged to wait until they know Michael Bevan's intentions but he is unlikely to be omitted from Australia's tourists in 1997.

David Byas struck the first and possibly decisive blow in this match by winning his first toss in the Championship and taking first knock on a slow, flat pitch and, surprisingly in view of the recent rain, a quick outfield. Glamorgan had to contend with a stiff, cold North-easter that had their symbol, the daffodil, ducking of the record when bad and weaving in the Gardens. It ended play 10 overs early.

cloud, to bowl or field.

When 15 runs came off the first seven deliveries Glamorgan sensed what to expect. Moxon was in fine fettle straight away, going on the back foot to ham-mer huge off-drives. Once Steve Watkin had found his rhythm, with the wind, he gave the 21-year-old Vaughan a rigorous ex-amination, helping confine him to 11 runs in the first 17 overs.

But the runs flowed, and flowed. Glamorgan tried six bowlers in the morning but without Ottis Gibson, who has a groin strain, and Roland Lefebvre, retired, the attack is over dependent upon the in-vincib'. Watkin and helpful conditions. A near run-out, by a throw from Steve James, and two nicks that dropped short of the slips, were their only encouragement all day.

Robert Croft tried flight to contain the pair, which was bard work, as Mozon reached his 43rd century in the 63rd over, Vaughan réached his century, his fourth, in the 71st. After tea, after three dashing cover drives off Adrian Dale in one over, Vaughan swept past his previous career best, 117 at Luton in 1994, and was first past 150, off 263 balls with 23 fours.

Moxon had hit 18 fours and the pair were eight runs short of the record when bad light

New Zealand's ambition stifled by Ambrose

TONY COZIER

reports from St John's, Antigua West Indies 548-7dec & 184 New Zealand 437 and 46-3

New Zealand quickly had to abandon optimistic hopes of an unlikely victory in the second and final Test yesterday when they lost three wickets in pursuit of a target of 296 off 73 overs.

Curtly Ambrose claimed Roger Twose in the fifth over just before lunch and then appeared lucky to gain umpire Lloyd Barker's belated decision for a catch at the wicket that ac-New Zealand's chances were

effectively erased when Nathan Astle, coming off two successive hundreds, was caught low down day: Rusedski v Um; Petchey v Book. To-parone: Rusedski and Broad v Um and Kni-.: Standay: Rusedks v Book: Petchey v Um. Phil Simmons' first over. at cover by Jimmy Adams in

The West Indies' tension was evident in a bizarre morning. Ambrose might have been run out three times had not Chris Harris, New Zealand's best fielder, missed. There was also the mystifying sight of Ambrose shielding Courtney Walsh. (Fifth day of five; New Zealand won toss

WEST INDIES - First innings 548 for 7dec (J C Adams 208no, R G Samuels 125, PV Sim-NEW ZEALAND - First limitings 437 (N J As-tie 103, D N Patel 78, C M Spearmen 54; C Ambrose 5-88)

WEST ROUES - Second Insings S L Campbel c Remang b Vaugher R G Samuels flow in Morrison B C Lara c Fleming in Morrison P V Shamons c Vaughan in Harra . J C Adams c and in Vaughan S Chanderpaul in Morrison O Browne fow b Larsen Bishop c Germon b Monison L Ambrose few b Monison

feer (WII) and C Mitchley (SA).



Thorpe struck painful blow

The Surrey and England batsman Graham Thorpe was taken to hospital for a precautionary Xray after being struck just above the right elbow by a rising delivery from Somerset's Andre van

Troost at Taunton yesterday. Thorpe was clearly in considerable pain, but returned later to report nothing more serious than severe bruising. "I simply didn't pick the ball up," he said. The arm will be a bit stiff in the morning, but I should be able to bat." Only 11.3 overs were possible, with Surrey on 34 for 2.

Jason Laney scored his maiden first-class century for Hampshire against Oxford University in The Parks, but England's Robin Smith managed just one scoring stroke - a streaky edge for two - in 15 balls before miscuing a square cut to third man.

Fresh faces for a fresh day

reports from Lord's

Middlesex 200 Gloucestershire 94-4

The 80 or so shivering spectators dotted about Lord's probably did not know it, but they were watching the future of county cricket: at least the kind envisaged by the Test and County Cricket Board for 1999, and then perhaps even beyond and into the next century.

That will be the year the counties are first expected to compete without the aid of overseas players. A situation both sides faced yesterday, Middlesex's Dion Nash and Gloucestershire's Courtney Walsh, being occupied in warmer climes.

Their absence as front-line seam bowlers was not overly missed as 14 wickets tumbled without a single over of spin to break up the pattern of a bitterly cold day, that was every bit as grey as the cricket.

Middlesex, without Phil Tufnell, absent with tonsillitis, and Richard Johnson, who has a shoulder injury, were forced to push several young fledglings from the nest.

David Goodchild and Umer Rashid made their first-class debut, while James Hewitt (apparently no relation to Princess Di's one-time paramour) made his Championship debut. He claimed a wicket with his first ball in first-class cricket, a feat not achieved for Middlesex since JHS Hunt against Somerset in 1902.

to 200 was puzzling and in the end largely due to a stand of 69 between John Carr and Keith Brown. Both men eventually succumbed in the forties, with Carr's bat in particular, appearing to have more edges than a broken bottle. Indeed the first four of his nine boundaries

went through vacant third man. Kevin Cooper, the 38-yearold veteran of a thousand-andone net sessions took 4 for 54 of canny medium-pace cut and swing, including the wicket of Mark Ramprakash, caught at first slip by Richard Davis off a corker that left the batsman late, having already drawn him into a leg-side shot.

With Pooley already gone, having dragged Cooper on to his

ire are 316 for 0 in their linest Glamorgan. Today:

Clamorgan v Yorkshire

Having won the toss and stumps, Middlesex found thembatted, their headlong stumble selves teetering when Mike Gatting was bowled off his pads by Jonathan Lewis a tall 20-yearold seamer, who bowled steadily once he had warmed up. Apart from Carr and Brown, it did not get any better and only Hewitt among the debutants made it to

Until they batted, Gloucestershire would have been well pleased with their efforts in the field. However, in fading light and facing a slimline Angus Fraser who was leading a Middlesex attack which, excluding himself, had until yesterday taken but a single wicket between them only Andrew Symonds looked assured. Fraser took two of the four wickets to fall. before a second hour of bad light brought a welcome halt.

Britannic Assurance County Championship (First of four days) Keat v Lanca RY: Kent are 63 for 2 is their a sessiont Lancastire. Today:

Middlesex V Gloucestershire LORD'S: Gloucestershire (Apts) are 94 for 4 in reply to a first-innings total of 200 by Middlesex (1). Today: 11.0 MUCCLESEX - First lankage

"M W Gatting b Lews J D Carr c Russell b Alleyne †K R Brown c Russell b Coo alt 1-9, 2-23, 3-66, 4-80, 5-149, 6-163

A J Winght C Weekes b Fra R I Dawson that b Heettt ... R J Cuntiffe c Brown b Foli er, A M Smith, J Lewis, Bowling: Fraser 9-5-11-2; Foliet; 7-2-43-1; Hewitt 7-2-28-1; Goodchid 1.4-0-9-0 Umpires: J W Holder and M J Kitchen.

Somerset v Surrey

TAUNTON: Surrey are 34 for 2 in their first business against Somerset. Today: 11.0. SURREY - First Inchags nell c Lea b Shina.....

CRICKET SCOREBOARD To Bat: A J Hollooke, C C Lews, B P Juhan, 1G J Kersey, M P Bicknell, R M Pearson, Bowling: Styne 6-2-15-2; van Troost 5-2-1-19-0.

Sourcesses with Learning, P.D. Sower, S.C., Ecolesson, R.J. Harden "A.N. Hayfruss, S.Lee, tR.J. Turner, G.D. Rose P.C.L. Holloway, K.J. Shine, A.P. var Troost. Umplees: D.J. Constant and K.E. Pelmer,

T S Cures c Gooch b Wil W P C Weston c Grayson b liotz G A Hick they b liotz "T M shoody low b liotz ESSEC G A Goodh, D D J Robinson, N Hussain, S G Low, "P J Pricherd, R C Irani, †R J Rollins, M C Rott A P Cowan, A P Grayson, N HIRE - First landage

Uspoires: J D Bond and P Willey. Other match Oxford University v Hampshire

Extras (06, t)4, w2) 1. Total (for 7, 97 overs) 26 Fall: 1-91, 2-151, 3-163, 4-182, 5-229 To Bat: C A Connor, S M Milburn. Bonding: Du Preez 11-2-44-0; Thomson 13-3-37-0; Wagh 21-4-67-2; Malik 35-14-75-2; Mather 17-5-31-3

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: "C M Gupte, I J Succifie, A M Ridley G A Khan, M A Wagh, H S Malik, M E D Jarretr, 1J N Barty, R B Thom-son, S P Du Preez, D P Mather. Son, S.P. Du Preez, D.P. Mather.

50-0; Butcher 9-1-34-0; Barnick 21-10-47-0; Croft 24-5-65-0; Dele 7-0-44-0; Codey
3-0-15-0.

84 MORGAN: S.P. James, H. Morris, A. Dele,
M.P. Maynard, P.A. Cottey, G.P. Butcher, R.D.
B. Croft, S.D. Thorrisk, fC.P. Metson, S.L. Washin,
S.R. Barwick,
Limplewey, L.D. Barnet and b. Martin.

(Fixel day of three) Hove: Kent 413 for 5 dec (D P Ritton 230, D J Spencer 87no, R Key 50) and 161 for 3 dec (N R Taylor 109no). Subsex 291 (S Humphries 71, R Thether 53; N Preston 5-73). Match abandoned as a

Old Trefford: Nothinghamshire 250 for 3 dec (G F Archer 14/no) and minings forfeited, Lan-cashire innings forfeited and 180 for 5 (S P Titchard 60no). Match drawn. Other match

ONE-DAY FRIENDLY MATCH (Osterley): Indian Gymkhana v India (11.0).

JUST THE TICKET: A guide to what's on where for the sporting spectator

This weekend

TODAY
CRICKET: Birtannic Assurance County Championship teecand day of four). Other Match (second day of three): Orderd Unive Herits (The Pariel). CLAY PRISON SHOOTINE: English Open Siene; Championship (Northampton). The first squad states at 8.40m each day until Sunday. Speciating as the Northampton Shooting Grounds, Syvell, is signosted off A43 Reterning tool, there make north of Northampton. CYCLING: Three makes north of Northampton. CYCLING: Three makes north of Northampton. CYCLING: Three ones of Tour of Lancashire. Today: Stage five: Scotton a south of Junction 33, MG). Stage four: Encasser to Morsecambe (111m). Sunday: Stage five: Burnley to Accomption (10.30m). Stage five: Stage Stage seven: Blackburn to Blockburn (111m).
EQUESTINANSMIK. Missubshi Mytors BadEQUESTINANSMIK. Missubshi Mytors Bad-

Backhum to Bieckhum (11am), Sugar Serial Backhum to Bieckhum (11am), EQUESTRIANISM: Mitsubshi Motors Badmingon Hors Finds, Meno, The Duise of Beaution's Estate is 4½ miles north-east of function 18, M4. Today: dressing (Bent), £10 per car and driver, £4 per additional person. Tomorrow.cross-country (11.45am), £14, £3, Sundey; show jumping (11.45am start if number of competitors exceeds 20, 2.45am if fewer) £10, £4. Trains from London Peddington tomorow only: 7.30 and 8.30am (Ref. 01.71.313) 1950). Cosch service from London temorow. £28 resum (Mes Verdy Baker 01.71.351.4434). SMOONER: Embassy World Champloniship (Chuchle Theathy, Sheffield).

TOMORROW
POUTBALL: Endsleigh League Second and Third Divisions and Ball's Scottish League programme. Walkers Crisps Under-15 International Shields Engand in Nechretands (3.0) fat Wernbley). RUGEY LEAGUE: Stones Super League Workington in Heilds: (6.0). RUGEY LEAGUE: Stones Super League Workington in Heilds: (3.0) fat finicipathamy. Swales Cup Final: Neath in Portsyndio (3.0) fat Cardiff Arms Parid. Neath in Portsyndio (3.0) fat Cardiff Arms Parid. Courage Clubs' Champhoriship Netional League Threes. Reashin Psark in Rugby (3.0), Pillington Shield Final: Heiston v Medicals (12.0) fat Turchersham).

PICK OF THE DAY THIS WEEKEND/Cricket

Osteriey, Arundel and Lisbridge The Indians open their tour with three one day matches over the holday weekend. Today they are the guess of the Indian Gymkhasis. Chib. at Osterley, Middleser, a metch which has a long standing.

CYCLING: Kermitor Open MTB Sents (Mid-desbrugh). The first round of the mountain ble-racing series is at Easton Hills. Langbeurgh on Trees, near Middlesbrugh. The downfull section starts at 1.30pm. On Sunday, the cross-coun-try opens with the junior noters at 9.30pm and étits notes at 11.30pm. Reseate University Sports Complex, Petits Lane, Normanthy, as signpost-ed north of A171. Eastborugh road from A1043 south-east of Middlesbrugh. Petits of 18.45 and from A1043 south-east of Middlesbrugh work of 18.45 and 18.45 FENCINES. Eatish Foll Champornships (Hendon). Fercang starts at Beam. Today: Women's Indi-vidual competitions and men's beam every; to-morrow: Men's individual and women's seam. Spectating is fries. Peel Centre. Metropolitian Police College. Aerodrome Road, Hendon, Lon-don MW9.
WHIPSURFINES: LIVESA National Champ-lorships (Weymouth). Recing in Portland Ner-bur, sandfoot Beach, Old Castile Road, Wey-mouth, Desset.

THE, GOODSTAND THE MONEY OF THE MONEY OF THE MONEY FOOTBALL FA Carling Premiership and Enusies League First Division programmes.

BLIGHY LEAGUE: Stories Super League.

CRECKET: Tour Match: Duchess of Norfolk's Stories (Aunthle, 11.0). AXA Equity and Leavernate.

BLIGHY LEAGUE.

CRECKET: Tour Match: Duchess of Norfolk's Stories (Aunthle, 11.0). AXA Equity and Leavernate.

BLIGHY LEAGUE.

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CRECKET: Tour Match: Duchess of Norfolk's Aunthle, It vinda (Arundel, 11.0). AVA Equity and Law League programme. Reproduced the Macantic NewMARNET: Club £23 (16 to 25-year-olds £10); Grandstand and Paddock £12 (16 to 25-year-olds £5); Share Rang £5; 2.0). SALESBURY: Members £12.50; Textessals £6: Course Enclosure £4 (accompanied under 16s free of enclosurea). (2.15). HOVERCRAFT RACINGS, Notional Roce, Meeting (Soutiquotto, Racing, over land and water. Competition statis at noon on Sunday and Monday, Admission charge to lakes, Mere Brow Leisure Lakes, Tarleton, Lancasine, are off AS9 Presion to Soutiquot Road.

MOTOR RACING: Formula 3 Championship (Donington). Practice from 9.10em. first nace 9.25pm. £12 adults. accompanied children £5 (Donington). Practice from 9.10am, first race 9.25pm. £12 adults, accompanied chiefen 15 and under free. Donington Park, Castle Don-ington, Destry, is three miles from junctions 23A24 of M1/M42/M42 (Tel: 01332-810048). POMERSOAT RACINES, Spaties Trophy (Gos-port, Reeng in the opening round off the British offsnore champions in state at 12-30pm off Stoles Bay public car part. The range of des-es from the small 1.3-litre craft to the me-stale 1200hp machines will note a course across

history. On Sunday, the touring the National Cricket Association XI team plays the traditional opening metch against Lawrise, Duchess
of Nontolk's XI at Arandel Castle,
West Susses. Set in paridand for
the Anni valley, the picturesque
ground is a neutral amplituteanty
ground is a neutral amplituteanty
with banks covering half the
ground, offering views of the castle and cathedral. On Monday, the
Indians cellum to Middesex to play.

120-mile event. Watch the proceedings from the Stokes Bay shorefine.

TENNIS: Davis Cup Euro/African zone group two first round: 08 v Slovenis (David Doyd Carrier, Newcastel).

RUSSY LEAGUE: Wednesday: Citalliange Match: Wigar v Bath (8.0) for Maine Road, Mannesday.

120-mile event. Watch the proceedings from the Stokes Bey shorefine.

TENNIS: Davis Cup Euro/Airca zone group two first round: GB visioneris (David Unyd Carter, Newcastie).

MONDAY

FOOTBALL: Spaking Cup Final second leg: Bromsgive v Maccostied (7 45).

RUGBY LEAGUE: Wednesday: C 120.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Stokes Super League: Workington Town v Harista (7 30).

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car, plus £2 per occupant, (2.30). CARLISLE:
Club £12 (DAPs and under-21s £9); Tattersals
£6 (DAPs and under-21s £1). (2.10). LING-FREIDE Members £13, Tattersals £9; Sher Ring
£5. (2.20). Member £13, Tattersals £9; CAPs who are members of course's
Jubiles Club £41; Sher Ring £5 (Jubiles Club
£41; Sher Ring £5 (Jubiles Club
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£48; Sher Ring £5 (Jubiles Club
£48; Sher Ring £5 (Jubiles £12; Tettersals £9; Course £4, (6.15). NEXT WEEKEND

FOOTBALL: Seturday: FA Cup First: Liverpool v Manchester Util (3.0) (at Warnbley). RACING: Seturday: BATH: Club £12; Tetter-PODIERLE Seauriday: FA Cup First: Liverpool v Manchester Util (3.0) (at Winnbley).

RACING: Seauriday: BATH: Club £12; Tratin-sids £8; Sher Fire £4; Course £1, (2.10), BEV-ERLEY: as Friday. (2.25), LIMBRELD: Members £16; Grandstand £12; Saver Ring £5. (2.25).

LIMBRELD: Members £12; Saver Ring £6. (2.25).

MOLVERSHAMPTION: Club £15; Taltismals £6 (0AP members £12.50) (Taltismals £6).

RESEAURI £25.50) (Trating entrance and meet. (7.0), Warwelch: as Monday. (5.40). Worcester: Members £12.50; Taltismals £9.50; Course £5 (0APS £2.50). (Taltismals £9.50; Course £6 (0APS £2.50). (Taltismals £9.50; Challengs Sedes (first day of three. archaing Sunday, £1.0); Gloucestershire v India (Bristol). Other Match (one day): Order University V Cambridge University (The Paries, Sanday: AXA Equity and Law League programme.

Plan ahead With the Olympic Games as the prize, the AAA Championships in Burningham next morah will provide some exceptional athletics as Atlantia aspirants compete for places in the British team.

Finals will held on each of the three flams and competition will prize ferre.

thrais will neto on each of the three days and competition will prove fierce with the first two in each event automatically gaining selection, provided the A standard has been met. Linford Christie lines up in the 100 metres on Seturday, while Sally Gunnell runs the 400m hundles on the finel day. Securitor AAA Championships, Birmingham, 14-16 June.

14-16 June.
Alexander Stadium Stadium Way, Penry Ber.
Is three north of Birminghem City Centre on
A34 Welsell road and close to Junction seven, MS. Tickets: Friday Chise event 5.30pm.
Inst 9.45pm): £4 eduks. £2 children under18(CAPs. Saturder (11.30em): 7.10pm) and
Sunday (11.30em-5 40pm): Main Stand: £13.
£16 aduks. Nelson Sand: £9. £14 aduks.
£4, £7 children. Vinonies Stand: £6 aduks.
£5 children. Emily refer inne adukt per per del E3 children, family britet (two adults, two chil-dren) £14. Open Terroce; as knowles Stand. Ticket hotkne: 0121 344 4800.

Details of forthcoming events with information on tickets and venues should be sent to: The Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Fax: 0171 293 2894.

Compiled by Paul Maher



Red is revolution and anger and tells anyone who sees it that you feel passionately about something. With HP colour printing and copying solutions you can make your point in red.

HP in the office. A little oblow sits a lot

HEWLETT*

she said. "When I realised that tors breached the 1976 Euro- have to amend legislation." Diffuser means and passions.

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Football

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Section Section 18

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Craig Brown rounded up the usual suspects for Scotland's Euro 96 task force yesterday when he named 23 players for the matches against the United States and Colombia in America later this month - his final warm-up games before the European Championship.

Then he set them the target of scaling unprecedented heights, by claiming a place in the second stage of a major finals for the first time in eight attempts.

We have the personnel with the desire and capability to make that a possibility," Brown said. "We've been to six World Cups and the 10. European finals in Sweden and we have never gone beyond the first stage. Now England is the yardstick for this squad.

There were no surprises in the group unveiled by Brown with recent regulars like John McGinlay, Duncan Shearer

and Pat Nevin jettisoned but the Middlesbrough defender Derek Whyte is on stand-by for Rangers' Alan McLaren, who faces a knee operation the day before the tour starts.

The Scotland manager is delighted at the co-operation of Whyte. "Derek has been superb in accepting the situation which means he will go to America yet

may not go to Euro 96," he said.
"McLaren will have his operation on 20 May, which is some 20 days before our first match with the Netherlands. Ally Mo-Coist was back in nine days after a similar operation once.

Once we go to the States it will be a doctor-to-doctor situation between us and Rangers on his availability. But he must be match-fit if he is to face the Netherlands, England and Switzerland."

Brown is hoping the games against America in New Britain on Sunday, 26 May and Colombia in Miami three days later will solve his striking crisis.

Chase sells out as Norwich chairman

Robert Chase yesterday stepped down as chairman of Norwich City after a season-long campaign by sections of the Carrow

Road crowd to oust him. Chase, a Norfolk builder who took over from Sir Arthur South in 1986, is believed to have sold a substantial proportion of his majority shareholding to a former chairman, Geoffrey Watling. Watling, chairman in the 1950s and 60s and instrumental in saving City during a financial crisis

in 1957, is now club president. Chase took over after the club's entire board of directors had resigned following a row over the rebuilding of Carrow Road's main stand. But in recent seasons he has come under intense pressure from disgruntled fans who have accused him of being more interested in bricks

and mortar than football. While Carrow Road is almost unrecognisable from 10 years ago and is regarded as one of the most modern stadiums in the First Division, City's standards on the pitch have slumped dra- ousted him two years ago and matically. From the position of Francis Lee took charge.

title-chasers and Uefa Cup conquerors of Bayern Munich in 1994, Norwich have slipped out of the Premiership and are now languishing near the bottom of the First Division.

Mike Walker, the m who led the Canaries into Europe, left for Everton amid claims that Chase was unwilling to reward him fully with an improved contract and funds to finance team building. John Dechan and Gary Megson failed to stop Norwich from slipping out of the top flight and Martin O'Neill took over in the summer. But O'Neill walked out to join Leicester in acrimonious circonstances in November, ac-

cusing Chase of lacking ambition. Peter Swales, the former Manchester City chairman, died yesterday in Manchester's Wythenshawe Hospital. He had a heart attack last weekend but was thought to be improving. Swales was chairman of City for over 20 years from 1973 before a bitter takeover battle

"We are hoping to find a partnership and America will be no sentimental journey." he said. "I'm not going over there and promising everyone a game -we'll try and have a settled side if we can.

Seven people were arrested yesterday in connection with crowd disturbances at last Saturday's Second Division game between Brighton and York. Police said the seven, who were identified from video footage of the incidents, were being questioned on suspicion of assault and causing criminal damage.

Steve Foster's benefit match at the Goldstone Ground next Tuesday has been cancelled following talks between Brighton and local police. It is now hoped to stage the game before the start of next season.

Brighton have also had to switch two reserve matches away from the Goldstone this week and move the Sussex Senior Cup final between Crawley and Hastings to Worthing.

Alan Shearer expects to resame light training tomorrow just two weeks after undergoing surgery. The Blackburn striker has made an "excellent recovery" following his operation on a troublesome groin injury on 18 April. It is almost certain that earer will be fit to join the England party for a tour of China and Hong Kong prior to the European Championship.

Sunderland's Michael Gray has apologised for his behaviour during last Sunday's promotion victory parade through the city. Police are investigating complaints from the public that players used foul language on the open-topped bus and bal-cony of the Seaburn Centre as Sunderland marked their promotion to the Premiership in traditional fashion.

Leicester have been told by a tribunal to pay Sheffield Wednesday £210,000 for the defender Julian Watts, who signed for the First Division club just before this season's transfer

SCOTLAND SQUAD (four to United States, 21-31 May: Booth (Aberdeen), Boyd (Calici, Burley (Chelsel), Calderwood (four-form), Collins (Calici), Durie (Rangers), Galfacher (Blacidum), Emmanii (Notingram Forest),



Benn avoids Collins conference

Boxing

Nigel Benn refused to show up at a face-to-face meeting with Steve Collins yesterday. Collins had travelled from Dublin for the news conference to announce World Boxing Organi-sation super-middleweight title defence against Benn at the new 21,000 capacity Nynex Arena in Manchester on 6 July.

"Sugar Boy" Malinga, the World Boxing Council champion who will defend his title on the same bill, travelled from South Africa to be present and Italy's Vincenzo Nardiello came from Rome, but Benn was

The former WBC holder preferred to remain at his Jersey home as the countdown began for a fight which the promoter Frank Warren says is

By coincidence, Collins will be training in Jersey for a third defence of the crown he captured from Chris Eubank 14 months ago. "I'm heading for Jersey next week, so I suppose he's packing his bags to get out before I arrive." Collins said. "I think by him not showing up, he's bottled it."

Benn's manager, Peter De-Freitas, was left to do the explaining. "With nine out of 10 boxers there would be no problem, but Nigel is Nigel. But what probably your worst nightmare. Britain will be a bonus.

more can I do than notify him of the conference? He wanted

basis. But now contracts have been signed it will all be different

Benn lost his WBC crown to Malinga in Newcastle in March, and Collins observed: "Taking

"But I know he's going to

Ebdon's clowning paying dividends

Snooker

GUY HODGSON reports from Sheffield

Peter Ebdon has a record coming out on 20 May, the title of which - "I am a Clown" - some regard as inappropriate, as they would insert the word "total" in there. Then again there are others who regard him as a welcome splash of colour in a

sport where grey is the vogue. The 25-year-old 10th seed at the Embassy World Championship provokes a reaction. Be it with his exuberant screams of "Come on!" when he was an important frame, or his rolling round the floor when he defeated Steve Davis, "It's just an explosion of tension," Ebdon said of his celebrations. "I get really involved in the match, I'm really trying, summoning up anything I can to achieve my goal. It's not something I do deliberately.

"I get people criticising me but they don't know what it's like out there. It's easy for commentators to have a go. A lot of them have never been involved in sport. At top level the pressure can hurt you.

Ebdon had something to shout about vesterday because, in his first World Championship semi-final, he gained a 4-3 lead over Ronnie O'Sullivan in the opening session of their best-of-31-frames contest. Playing at The Crucible with one table is a different experience to the claustrophobic conditions when two tables and a screen have to be shoehorned into the venue. Neither player had felt the full width before and, inevitably, neither shone in the opening exchanges.

The first frame was a shambles of missed shots and rank bad play, and it was a relief to the audience as well as O'Sullivan that he put it out of its misery with a break of 27. At that point Ebdon did not look capable of making a good pot if he was given a pile of clay and a spinning wheel.

But he got back into the match with a winning break of 76 in the second frame. The sesknocking in a 109 break.

Unexpected return from injury for Hunt Cycling

Almost as quietly as he slipped into the company of Miguel Indurain, Jeremy Hunt became a starter in the five-day Thwaites Grand Prix which opened in Manchester yesterday, writes Robin Nicholl.

In the early months of his professional career with the team of the five-times Tour de France winner, Hunt sampled the famous European classics, but a back injury has sidelined him for the last two weeks. Back home for treatment he

was a late and unexpected entry for Britain's premier stage race. Late yesterday he lined up in the famed Banesto team colours for the opening race over 40 miles, a gentle prelude to some hard days which end in Blackburn on Monday after 346 miles.

Hunt is back where it all started a year 250 when a 30-mile solo gave him victory in the stage to Blackburn. He finished the year with 15 victories, and a contract to work with Indurain.

Smith delays signature for EF consortium

The Swedish EF Education challenge for the 1997/98 Whitbread Race were forced to delay introducing their preferred skipper, Britain's Lawrie Smith. in Southampton yesterday. writes Stuart Alexander. The manager of the project,

Johan Salen, said, however, that he expected contracts and all remaining issues to be settled within two weeks. The finance had been agreed, and "there are no make of break questions still needing to be solved," he said.

Smith will join a project funded by up to £10m, already owning both intrum and the Spanish yacht Galicia Pescanova, and planning to build two new yachts designed by Bruce Farr. One will be for an all-woman crew, at present headed by Mikaela von Koskult. The other would be Smith's with an international crew.

SASSONANI
AMERICAN LEAGUE Boston 5 Detroit 1; Cleveland 9 Chango Write Sox 5; Toronto 9 Ministrlea 9; Minnesou 6 Kansse Cuy 5 (1,0 Innings);
New York Yarkes 11 Battimore 6 (1,5 Innings);
Yesse 5 Sestile 4; California 6 Oelsand 4,
MATTONAL LEAGUE Chicago Cubs 9 St Louis 3;
Montreal 4 New York Mets 0 (first geme); New
York Mets 6 Montreal 0 decorad geme); Philadelphile 6 Fortia 5; Pistolarigh 4 Cancinnati 3; Houston 3 Attayras 0; Sen Diego 9 San Francisco 4;
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AMERICAN LEAGUE
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NEA PLAY-OFFS First round: Eastern Con-ferences New York 81 Cleveland 76 files York win best-of-the series 3-0f: Ourselp 112 Me-mi 91 (Chilogo win best-of-the series 3-0). Wast-ern Conference: Portland 98 Utah 90 (best-of-the series sed 2-2). Phoemi 49 Sen An-tonio 93 (San Antonio land best-of-the series 2-1).

Boxing

Boxing
Richie Woodhall has been forced to put
on hold next month's proposed bid to
win the World Boxing Council world indidieweight title. Unbeaten 'Woodhall
should have met the champion Keith
Holmes by 30 June, but Holmes is to
make a voluntary defence of his title
against Argentina's Jonge Castro which
means Woodhall will have to walt until
September at the earliest for his chance.

Cycling
TOUR DUPONT (74.2km, from Wilmington, Delaware to Marietta, Georgia) First Stage:
1 A Paris (Lal) Rabobaria 11 y 20min 44eet
3.7 SPOTY 2 M White Mark Clark ALS same tine;
3.5 Forther (US) Saturn; 4.6 Harcade (US) Momorbia; 3.7 Nasna (US) Chevrolet IA Sheriff; 6.
Phave 679 Pestina all VI.
TOUR OF ALENTEDO (174km, MontamorbiaNove to Gastelle of Wide) Staff stage: 1 Mi
notarian (Sp) Benesio 4m 30min 50se; 2 Dead
Gathe (Sp) Eustain + 3eet; 3 Paulo Ferrilia Pol
Masy Lambor Cm + 2.4 Putterson Indurant (Sp)
Benesio +8; 5e Pedro Sine (Port La/Marahaus
4.23, Ceser Soleun (Sp) Eustaid +22.

Football

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The Oldham winger, Scott Ranson, who was cited and suspended after a clash in which Castleford's Nathan Syles broke

Rugby Union

ENGLAND SQUAD (Student
Africa, into and July Back
J Useron (Masse), D Lugo

Football

(7.45 unless stated)

(FFA CHAMPIONS FEP (IRCDER-18 FRALLS

Group D: England visited (Page, Austra, 3.30).

(INFORD LEASUE Challenge Capt First Hyde

Littly v Leek Town (at Bolton Wanderess FC,
7.30).

HEREWARD LIMITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premiler Divisions Startford v Spating Unit.

Properties LEAGUE First Divisions: Liverpool

mer unversor sceneral v spearing un.
PORTINS LEAGUE First Division: Liverpool
v Newcastle (7.0).
AVOR INSURANCE COMBINATION First Ofvision: Brighton v Swindon (2.0); Bestel Rivers
v Chaffion (2.0); Queen's Park Rangers v Arstrail (7.0).

Rugby League

SK Slavia Praha clinched their first Czech league title in 49 years on Wednesda despite losing 3-0 at Petra Dimovice.

NORWESIAN LEAGUE: Bodoe/Girst 1 Stroms-guiset 1; Brann 1 Willing 1; Kongsinger 1 Lib-strom 5; Molite 0 Stept 1; Statute 2 Moss 2; Tramso 3 Start 0; Veetsengs 0 Rosenborg 4.

Rugby League First Division Hull have signed Peter Rugerald, the 26-year-old Australian util-

his law, has had his ban reduced from three metches to two on appeal.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Rugby Union MOUNTAIN Ach (al Pontyphold, 7.0).

Speedway
PREMER LEAGUE: Befe Vue v Scotlish Monarcia (7.30); Oxford v Cradey Heath & Stoke, (7.30); Peterborough v Eastbourne (7.30).
COMPERENCE LEAGUE SPRING CUP; Arene Essex v Miderhell (8.0). Other sports CYCLING: Thwates GP Tour of Lancesture. EQUESTRIANDSM : House trials (Badmirson).

BOLF: Weish Women's Open (Chepstow). SNOONER: Emberry World Championship (Cas-chie Theatre, Sheffield). MRS: Davis Cup Europhinean zone Group avec et British v Stovenia (David Lloyd Centre, practic) 1 TA Sovenia Satistica (Queenswood).

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Premier League: Hull 54 Schock Manacht 42; Poole 51 Belle Vue 45. Challenge: Long Emon 44 Peter

Table tennis England's men finished their pro-gramme at the European Champi-onships in Bratisleva with a victory but their 4-2 success over Slovenia, which

Their 4-2 success Over Solverias, which gave them 11th place, could not prevent them being releagited to the Second Division.

EIROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Bratistava, Stowards) Men play-offer 13-14: highest 4 Austria 2: 15-16: Beins 4 Souries 2: 17-18: Gretos 4 Comment 2: 19-20: Sourie 4 Romand 19: 22-22 Turkey 4 Crossis 1; 23-24: Priterd 4 Buignes 3.

(FI) 64-6-3.
ATAY CHALLENGE MEIN'S TOURNAMENT (Actions) (Flast remail: J Borteman (Swe) bt 0 Gross (Bet) 6-4 7-6; N Neut (Swe) bt M Jayor (LS) 7-6
3-6-5-1. Sectoral remail: M Chang (LS) bt M Televit (Aus) 6-1-6-2; J France (Ang) bt K Goossens (Bet) 6-3 6-4; K Alami (Mor) bt 5 Stolle (Aus) 6-4 6-2; F Meiligeri (Ana) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 3-6 6-2 6-2.

Alaman Market's Overhi Stories, mecodel

TODAY'S NUMBER

The players booked during the Libertedores. Cup tie between Botafogo and Gremio in Rio de Janeiro. The 1-1 draw at the Maracana sta dium also saw one player

sent off and 58 fouls.

seven days' notice, but I was only able to give him four. I will just have to ride the storm." costing "many millions". When Collins and Benn previously met to thrash out the details of a fight which Warren hopes will be worth £2m from gate receipts alone, everything was conducted on a friendly

Collins, whose mental forti-tude matched his physical strength in his two fights with Eubank said: "This is now business, and when it's business with me I am no longer your friend,

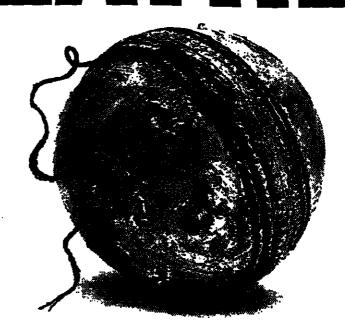
I just hope he's going to turn up on 6 July."

nothing away from Sugar Boy. but I'd have knocked out Benn on the night. The real Nigel Benn did not show up.

come back, he's got his pride, he wants to win big time, but I want him to be at his best just like Eubank was.'

Benn has a great record of winning as a challenger and De-Freitas added: "I am happy that Nigel is going as a challenger. He won his two world titles in America and Rome and fighting in

sion's decisive strike came in the last frame, O'Sullivan left Ebdon a chance, which he grabbed by



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Hoddle realises grand ambition

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent

He arrived by car, along the Bayswater Road, not by walk-ing across the Serpentine, but Glenn Hoddle carried a conviction upon his appointment as England coach yesterday that suggests he believes miracles will not be required.

The 38-year-old made his bow with the same grace and economy that characterised his playing career. Faced with an audience of more than 100 reporters, 50 cameramen and 13 television crews Hoddle looked as if he has been preparing to lead England all his life.

Which is not surprising, because he has. "I have had a burning ambition to do this since I was a very young age," he said at his unveiling in a hotel near Hyde Park. It is the only job, in England or abroad, which I would have left Chelsea for."

He has signed a four-year contract, estimated at close to £300,000 a year, which starts on 1 June. He will not however, be actively involved with the England squad until after Euro 96. Terry Venables, understandably, wants the team to concentrate exclusively on the championships. The first scheduled fixture for Hoddle is a World Cup qualifier, away to Moldova, on 1 September.

Hoddle put an end to mouths of speculation and two days of indecision on Wednesday night. Having first been approached by Jimmy Amfield, the Football Association's adviser, some weeks ago, he was offered the job on Tuesday. Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, refused to go into detail about the timing of the offer, but it seems clear that Hoddle was spoken to before his club. Though his contract has less than a month to run, it was not the ideal way for the FA to go about the appointment even if they did not directly contravene any regulation.

The raising of this subject at yesterday's press conference clearly irked Kelly, but Hoddle, who sat between Kelly and Venables, seemed unconcerned. In general be looked relaxed but wary. No different, in fact, to his approach when dealing with the media after Chelsea matches.

Hoddle said: "It is a privilege and an honour. That it why I took it. My ambition is to be sucers coming through which gives me the chance to do well. I want to do so in a manner which is close to my heart and, I believe, close to the public's as well."

Hoddle said the appointment would be "the pinnacle of any management career". His own started at 17, when he coached an Essex Sunday league side while still an apprentice at Tottenham. The experience, he said later, was useful but it was frustrating trying to explain ideas to players not good enough to understand them.

The same problem appeared to dog his early days at Cheisea but, this time, he will be dealing with players capable of putting his ideas into practice. Not only will they be the best the country had to offer, they have already been directed towards a more accomplished style by Venables.
"Terry's work has been a ma-

jor influence in my taking over," Hoddle said. "It would have been wrong to come in if the tactics had been totally different. That would have been too drastic a change.

"The way Terry has been playing has been very brave at times. He knows exactly what he wants and the team now know what he wants. For me it is very exciting, the last two performances have been samerb.

"Sometimes we admire what goes on across the channel and then raise eyebrows if we do it over here. I think people will accept it if we win."

Kelly confirmed: "We have reached continuity and we believe Glenn has similar football philosophies to Terry. He believes in intelligent players and raising the sophistication level of England players. Like Terry he is keen to bring players through the system playing a similar way throughout the teams, from youth to senior level."

Venables warmly approved Hoddle's appointment. "I coached him when he was in the under-21's and he was always keen to look at new things even then. I have not had much contact since but, when I had a meeting with the managers whose clubs had been in Europe we got talking and it was obvious we had thoughts along the same lines.

"I have said that I think it is an older man's job but that is a rule of thumb. When you begin talking about personalities, and cessful, the talent is there. There about Glenn, I would say it is a gained the FA's own coaching is a crop of exciting young play-good choice. He has experience badge and has only won a pro-



All smiles: Glenn Hoddle (left), with Terry Venables, the man he succeeds as England manager after Euro 96

motion through the play-offs. ing placed upon him. "If I was "I think the experience I've worried about the media scrutiny I would not have taken the gained through management and as a player has been in-

times judged by grey hairs but that is not necessarily the case." Hoddle will be back at work today, preparing Chelsea for Sunday's match with Blackburn Rovers. He intends to say a special goodbye to the sup-porters then - "it was heart-

valuable," Hoddle said. "If I did

not feel ready for the job I

would not have taken it. In this

country experience is some-

rending to leave," he added. Then he will appoint his backroom staff - no clues as yet, but they are unlikely to include Venables current a Robson, who may be viewed as then. Will be have put a fresh tro- way we played this year. I will too much of an equal to Hoddle
- and begin studying England's

he only have a head of grey hair

World Cup opponents and fol-to show for it? Wish him luck, lowing their Euro 96 campaign. for he will need good fortune as without great expectations be-

something to say about Glenn

Hoddle's new job yesterday -

from the Prime Minister to Hoddle's mum.

at Chelsea and he will certain-

catch for England and I offer him my warmest congratulations

of soccer and it is about time we

mixed feelings about the latest

Rangers in the Harlow Recre-

"England invented the game

on his appointment.

achieve that."

ational League.

job," he said. "Obviously it is a concern but it is up to me to deal with it. It is not a reason to turn the job down

Then, with the cameras about

to stop clicking and whirring, there was an intriguing postscript. Asked if he would one day like to return to coaching England, Venables said: "Yes, of course, I have made it very clear that I've enjoyed it. There have been difficult times but it is a privilege. If the chance came, I would consider it seri-

ously - but not for four years."

That time is for Hoddle to make his mark. He will be 42 by

The essential seal of

Gullit in line to fill Chelsea vacancy Rund Gullit yesterday put him-

self in the frame to take over as the manager of Chelsea by declaring that he will not follow Glenn Hoddle into the England

The inspirational Dutchman, who was a free transfer signing from Sampdoria last summer intends to complete the remaining year of his contract.

"I will be staying," the 33-year-old Gullit said. "Chelsea play as long as I enjoy it. That is my priority."

He also backed Hoddle's decision. "It a great opportunity His task will be hard enough much as good judgement. which does not come very often.

More football, page 27 I'm happy for him as a person,

even though it's a bit sad for Chelsea. If he had been going to another club, it would have been different."

Hoddle wants to turn Sonday's final game against Blackburn, into a farewell party - for himself and the Chelsea fans.

"I'd like to think there wouldn't be a problem," he said. "I'll be in training tomorrow and looking forward to preparing the side."

managing director, was "delighted for Glenn" but described his departure as a sad day for Chelsea. "It is a very emotional time." he said. "He has been an absolute joy to work when he wishes he was on holwith and we're all a bit down." iday in Florida."

Fans are auick to express support

Glenn Hoddie's appointment as was given widespread approval by spectators at the City Ground last night for the Premier League match between Nottingham Forest and New-castle United.

The prevailing view among supporters at the game was that with so many leading candidates ruling themselves out of the reckoning, the FA could hardly have done better in hiring the Chelsea manager. Ian White, of Nottingham.

thought so. He said: "So many people have cried off in terms of being interested in the job that the FA have come up with an excellent choice. "I'm delighted that someone with his beliefs on how the

game should be played has got the chance of managing Engiand. "As a player everything revolved around his tremendous sing ability, and I'm sure that he will take that philosophy with

him into his new role. "Whether he has got the necessary experience remains to be seen and I'm sure a lot will depend on how he handles press relations. But he appears to be an extremely nice chap and intelligent enough to carry it through.

Percy Simmons, of London, reinforced the view: "If the England team play like he did I don't think too many people will complain.

"He had tremendous flair and over the last 20 years or so there have not been many [playrsf with his talent."
Martin Howlett, of Throck-

ley, Newcastle, said: "He was it the first choice by any means but I think a lot of people will be happy with fife appointment. I feel that England should have done everything to keep

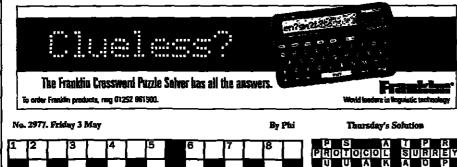
Terry Venables, because he was an excellent coach but I'm delighted that it s not Kevin Keegan, who the FA wanted."

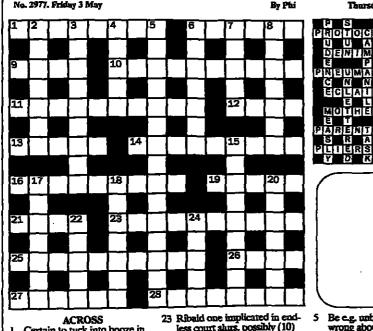
Kevin Smith; of Newburn, As added: "If he gets off on the right foot and puts a good run together, I'm sure he'll do well. At least he will have the London press on his side.'

Ian Moratee, of Ponteland. said: "I'm just delighted that the name of Kevin Keegan is off had a lot of experience but what he's done he seems to have done very well.
"It's a demanding job though

and I'm sure there will be times

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD





- Certain to tuck into booze in defined quantities (8)
 Material at front lacks power?
- Put new material at front (6) Surprise trick left unfinished 10 Successful book presenting worst lines penned by prophet? (4-6)
- 11 It illuminates student tucking into meal that's not study (10)
 12 Number enthralled by pos-
- setsed worker (4)
 13 and 14 Astronomical instrument possibly giving too pre-cise lead? (5.9) 16 and 19 Fixed time to cut into

- Girl with heart to pester upset everyone (7)
 Spanish girl is another to be dancing (9)
- 23 Râbaid one implicated in endless court slurs, possibly (10)
 25 Gone off-course? Board brings in independent, subject to discussion (10)
 26 Season of drawn matches, we hear (4)
 27 Against siting an American city within ravine (6)
 28 Shakespearean scene wrong to be located in English legend? (8)

 Shakespearean scene wrong to be located in English legend? (8)

 Shakespearean scene wrong to be located in English legend? (7)

abroad - and had it under a very

good coach [Arsene Wenger at Monaco]. He has good football

knowledge and is possibly one

of the best players this country

Hoddle returned the com-

pliment by suggesting that, had

Venables been England man-

ager when he was playing, "he

would have brought the best out

of me". He also addressed the

question of his own experience

- he is 38, has been a manager

for just five years, has not

has ever had.

phere of French coast? (7)

18 Loud is the sound, endlessly rising, indicating splitting (7)

20 Wash one in mistake, removing the control of The turnip potential of the England job was also one of the first considerations voiced by Osvaldo Ardiles, the Argentinian World Cup winner who played with Hoddle at Spurs between 1978 and 1987. "The job could destroy Glenn," he said. "I hope

it doesn't happen." But the former Tottenham manager believes Hoddle - and the Football Association - have made the right decision. "I know Glenn very well and I think this is an inspiring choice by the FA. He is his own man. He will do whatever is necessary. He has always been a very determined person with his own ideas and I

Everybody seemed to have Mike Rowbottom canvasses opinion

within the game and elsewhere on

John Major - an ardent Chelsea fan -warmly welcomed the appointment. "Glenn Hodthe new manager dle has done a remarkable job than they have for the last 20 years. But he is realistic as well. He knows very, very well indeed that the result is important. ly be missed there," Major said. None the less, he is a great

"The No 1 thing for any manager of a national team is to have played for the team. You can't get that knowledge any other way, and Glenn has done that. The fact that he has also

were on top of the world again.
I hope Glenn Hoddle can played abroad as well can only be good for England. Meanwhile, the woman who "In some ways I envy Glenn, because managing a national team is the maximum and Glenn invented Glenn Hoddle, Mrs Terri Hoddle, was harbouring has always been very ambitious. move in a footballing career Having said that, I don't envy him the other part of the job. England are expected to win all which began with Potter Street the time, and the press don't "I am very proud to think that he's been offered the job," she said, "But I'm a bit terrified at

have any patience if they don't."

Ardiles believes, nevertheless, that Hoddle should have sufficient inner strength to cope with the job. "Over the years, some people have thought that Glenn is soft, but I can assure you that he's nothing of the kind. He is a very hard man. You don't survive as long as he has at the

top level being soft." Ray Clemence, another former Spurs team-mate of Hoddle's, endorsed Ardiles's assessment. "Glenn knows about the public glare and I'm sure he's talked it all over with his family and friends. And more than anything else, when it comes to a job like this, you've got to want it - Glenn ob-viously does."

Manchester City's manager,

think he will go for it.

"I think Glenn will get England playing with more flair a wealth of international expe-

approval from No 10 rience as a player, so he will know what the job entails in ad-

vance," he said. Gary Lineker, who played with Hoddle during the 1988 European Championships, ex-pressed regret that there would be no continued role for the current England coach, Terry Venables, after Euro 96.

"I think most of us would like Terry Venables to continue, but the people involved have backed themselves into their various corners. If a new appointment has to be made, and that's been the case, then I am delighted it is Glenn Hoddle. Anyone who has seen Chelsea's style of football this season will be happy with that. If we are to be successful in Europe, we have to play the sort of game Glenn has tried to play with Chelsea."

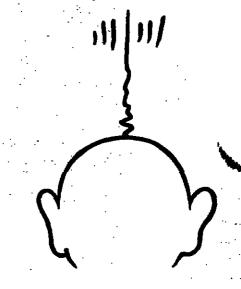
Lineker said Hoddle com-mands respect straight away with players because he was such an exceptionally taleated performer himself. "If he had been around now, he would have added quite significantly to his number of caps because the team would have been built around him."

The announcement will have lifted the spirits of Southampion's gifted midfielder Matthew Le Tissier who, like Hoddle, has found himself left out of the England team despite having a huge number of supporters.

Le Tissier, a transfer target for Hoddle during his time at Chelsea, said: "Glenn Hoddle was my hero as a boy, someone I have admired for a long time. If he is the England manager, that's a different matter."

The case may be altered for Le Tissier, for Hoddle it certainly is. However things turn out for Harlow's favourite son, he has come a long way from

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black (7) 22 Large marsupial - goshi (5) 24 Rushes studies when using the fragile item of kitchen furni-ture? (9.5)

21 Seaport losing sand ultimately could be finished (4) Make the longest word you can from FMER(HERS. Yesterday's Scramble; ENTIORIA Win a Franklin Crossword Puzzle Solver worth over £25 CALL 0891 311 017

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